



## R.E. LESSON PLAN - WATFORD SCHOOLS TRUST

<b>LESSON TITLE</b> Life of Jesus – The parable of the Lost Son	<b>LEARNING STAGE</b> LKS2	<b>WST TEACHER/DATE</b> Mrs Tricia Bastable/Mrs Johanna Jordan/Mrs Fiona Penny
<b>AIM:</b> To understand that Jesus told parables to explain what God is like.  <b>LEARNING OBJECTIVE:</b> To explore the parable of the lost son.	<b>MAIN AREAS OF LEARNING</b> (Herts R.E. Agreed Syllabus 2017-22)  Beliefs and practices Sources of wisdom  <b>Other AOL covered:</b> Human responsibility and values Ultimate questions	<b>LESSON RESOURCES</b> <b>WST will bring:</b> Story sack with props (jewellery, toy coins, pig food, party blowers, McDonalds sign) PPT (USB) Worksheets for group activity Worksheets to photocopy Extra worksheets (maze, word search)  <b>School to provide:</b> Photocopies of worksheets Colouring pencils

**Vocabulary:**  
  
 Parable = a story with a hidden meaning

### Introduction

Christians believe in God. The Bible (the Holy or special book Christians read) tells us about God and tells us the big story of God’s plan for the world. This big story starts with how God made the world. God made everything perfect and beautiful. He also made people and he wanted people to be his friends and to be friends with each other. But then things changed. People didn’t want to listen to God and instead wanted to decide things for themselves and it spoiled their friendship with God. This made God very sad, but he had a plan. A plan to restore his friendship with people. He promised to send someone special who would be a leader to the people, who would tell them about God and teach them about forgiveness. Christians believe this special person was Jesus and that Jesus was the Son of God.

Today we will be looking at a story about Jesus from the Bible. Some stories tell us about amazing things Jesus did (miracles), others are about someone Jesus met and how it changed their lives or a story he made up. All these stories help us to understand more about God. So at the end of the story I’ll ask you what you think Jesus wants people to understand about God.

### Main content

Jesus used parables to explain what God is like and today we are going to hear one of those parables. Explain that a parable is a story with a hidden meaning - almost like a secret message contained in a story. You need to listen to the story (parable) and see if you can work out the hidden meaning! I’ll ask you later what you think it was.

Retell the story of the prodigal (lavish) son. (DLTK version or Storyteller’s Bible-The Big Spender P.94)

In talking partners: Ask: “How does the father feel?” at various points in the story. And: “What would be the worst possible job the son could get today?” Use a story sack with props to involve the children.

Discuss what the hidden meaning of this story is. Christians believe that God is like the father in the story and people are like the son. People sometimes make choices that make God sad and which bring them into trouble. But if they say sorry to God, God will forgive them.

Discuss why Jesus told this story. Christians find it comforting to know that even if they make a mistake, God will give them a second chance.

### **Group Activity**

In small groups, at tables, look at the picture of the son leaving his father. Fill in a thought bubble for the father. What is the father thinking when his son leaves home for good?

### **PowerPoint**

Show various images of the parable of the lost son including 'The Prodigal Son' by Rembrandt. Discuss the emotions shown in the art work and how the father and son are displayed (i.e. son has torn clothes and shoes).

### **Individual Activity**

3 activities on a worksheet:

- Look at a picture of the son with the pigs and fill in the thought bubble: what might he be thinking?
- Draw a picture of the son's return to his home.
- Complete the sentence 'Jesus told this parable to show...'

### **Extension/enrichment activities**

Extra worksheets (maze, word search)

### **Plenary**

Who can tell me what a parable is? Why did Jesus tell this story? What have you learned about God today?

### **Deeper Questions - Possible follow up/class discussion suggestions**

Explore other parables Jesus told and their meaning. Do they tell us the same things about what God is like?

### **Class teacher's notes**

For further lesson plans, resources and support material visit  
[www.watfordschoolstrust.org](http://www.watfordschoolstrust.org) or email [info@watfordschoolstrust.org](mailto:info@watfordschoolstrust.org)

