



Crèche Material for 0-4 years



# Parables of The Lost

This month we are looking at the lost. There are two basic topics that we are talking about. The first is that the children themselves need God. The second is that we should love everybody and help them to meet God.

The story of the prodigal son is a much loved story. As we look at this story from different angles have fun talking about all the characters and bring creative with the story telling.

Give the children plenty of opportunity to share their experiences where suggested. This will make them feel a part of things, build their self confidence and help them to take the teaching on board. Listen carefully to what they say as they will be telling you a lot about their young lives.

Enjoy your ministry with these little ones!

Every blessing,

Olly Goldenberg,

Children Can

[www.childrencan.co.uk](http://www.childrencan.co.uk)



# Parables of The Lost

*Aim: To teach the children why Jesus came.*

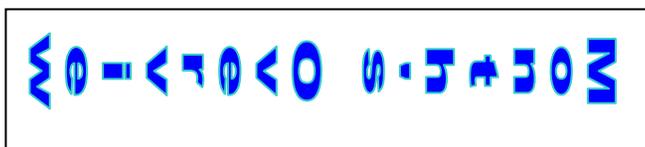
## Month Overview:

**Story: The Prodigal Son**

**Bible passage: Luke 15:11-32**

**Memory verse:** Luke Chapter 19 verse 10: "Jesus came to seek and save the lost."

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Ways of telling story	Story book	Puppets	Different hats	Move around the room
Worship	Out of prison	God is asking you	Jesus is our friend	Find the instruments
Warfare	In prison	God is asking you	Pray for the needy	Find the prayer cards
Activity	Colouring picture	Send a letter	People chain	Make glasses
Resources Provided	Story, story book, colouring picture	Story, letter to God.	Story.	Story, picture prayer cards, glasses template.
Resources Needed	Bible, prison bars (crepe paper), colouring crayons	Bible, puppets, treasure chest, letter, post box	Bible, clothes, food, juice, paper, scissors, glitter, etc.	Bible, instruments, card, scissors, stickers, ...



## Week 1:

# Week 1

**Word:** Luke 15:11-32

**Theme:** The Lost

**Teaching point:** Judgement comes

**Aim:** To teach the children that people who keep doing naughty things will get in trouble.

**Way of telling the story:** Use a picture story book.

### The Story:

Jesus loved to tell people stories:

He told stories to let people know what God is like.

He told stories to tell people what would happen.

He told stories to help people know what to do.

People loved to listen to Jesus' stories.

One time Jesus told this story to show that Daddy God will always love us no matter what we do. Daddy God loves us even if we are really naughty. In fact Daddy God loves everybody:

Once upon a time there was a man who had two sons. His youngest son came to him and said:

"Daddy, when you go to heaven all your money will be my brothers and mine. I will have some of it and my brother will have the rest. But daddy I don't want to wait for you to go to heaven. I want my money now."

The daddy was sad, but he gave his youngest son the money. The son then traveled far away. He walked for days and days and days until he was in a different country! When he got there he went to party after party. He bought lots of things he didn't need. In fact he spent so much money that soon it was all gone. He was very silly.

Soon he had nothing left to eat or to drink. He tried to get a job so he could get some food. But the only job he could find was feeding pigs. Nobody wanted to feed pigs. It was a horrible job but he had to do it. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pig food.

Suddenly he realized how silly he had been: "My daddy doesn't let his servants live like this. Here I am almost dying because I have no food. At home there is lots of food to eat. I am going to go home and ask my daddy to let me work for him. If I work for my daddy then I will have some food. So he started to walk home.

Meanwhile, back at home, his daddy was still sad. He missed his son. Every day he looked out of the window. He wanted his son to come home.

One day he looked out the window and saw his son coming. He ran to his son. Then he hugged him and gave him a big kiss. "I've missed you," he said.

The son started to ask his daddy if he could work for him. But his daddy told some people to put the nicest clothes on his son. Daddy decided to have a party. He was so happy he wanted to tell everybody about it. "I thought I would never see my son again but now he is here with me."

When his older son came back from his work in the field he heard the music from the party. "I wonder who the party is for," he thought. He soon found out it was a party for his younger brother. He was very angry. "Why does my daddy never have a party for me? My brother has been silly. My brother spent all his money. He has been very naughty. I'm not going to join the party."

The daddy tried to make him join the party. "Don't be silly," he said to his son. "All the money I have left is yours. But I'm happy because I thought we would never see your brother again. I don't care how naughty or silly he has been. I am just happy that he is back home with us now. I love him very much and I love you very much too."

### After telling the story

Ask them questions like the ones below to see if they were listening to the story. Focus on the teaching point that when we do naughty things God will judge us.

1. Why was the younger brother silly? **He spent all his daddy's money.**
2. Did the daddy keep looking out for his son after he had left home? **Yes.**
3. Why did the son decide to go home? **He was hungry and he knew his daddy had food.**
4. What happened when he got home? **His daddy ran to him, kissed him, gave him the best clothes and had a party.**
5. Did the older brother join the party? **No.**

Ask the children what happens if they do something naughty - their parents tell them off. The brother ended up feeding the pigs, it was not nice. Explain that God is not happy when we do naughty things.

## Warfare: Behind bars

Build some prison bars out of crepe paper. Tell the children that if you are naughty you could go to prison. As we have all been naughty everybody can go behind the bars. When they are there get them to say sorry to God. After they have said sorry they can come out of the prison.

## Worship:

Show the children the prison bars. Explain how Jesus took the prison bars away when he died on the cross. As they worship God let them pull down the prison bars you have put up.

## Activity:

Colour the picture in the extra resources section.

## Memory Verse:

Don't forget to teach the memory verse. Luke Chapter 19 verse 10: "Jesus came to seek and save the lost."

Get the children to look for somethin in the first part of the verse, with a worried expression then to find it an look happy for the second part.

## Week 2:

**Word:** Luke 15:11-32

**Theme:** The Lost

**Teaching point:** Love Jesus

**Aim:** To teach the children that it is not what we do but whether we love Jesus.

**Way of telling the story:** With puppets

### The Story:

Jesus loved to tell people stories:  
He told stories to let people know what God is like.  
He told stories to tell people what would happen.  
He told stories to help people know what to do.  
People loved to listen to Jesus' stories.

One time Jesus told this story to show that Daddy God will always love us no matter what we do. Daddy God loves us even if we are really naughty. In fact Daddy God loves everybody:

Once upon a time there was a man who had two sons. His youngest son came to him and said:

"Daddy, when you go to heaven all your money will be my brothers and mine. I will have some of it and my brother will have the rest. But daddy I don't want to wait for you to go to heaven. I want my money now."

The daddy was sad, but he gave his youngest son the money. The son then traveled far away. He walked for days and days and days until he was in a different country! When he got there he went to party after party. He bought lots of things he didn't need. In fact he spent so much money that soon it was all gone. He was very silly.

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## Parables of The Lost

Soon he had nothing left to eat or to drink. He tried to get a job so he could get some food. But the only job he could find was feeding pigs. Nobody wanted to feed pigs. It was a horrible job but he had to do it. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pig food.

Suddenly he realized how silly he had been: "My daddy doesn't let his servants live like this. Here I am almost dying because I have no food. At home there is lots of food to eat. I am going to go home and ask my daddy to let me work for him. If I work for my daddy then I will have some food. So he started to walk home.

Meanwhile, back at home, his daddy was still sad. He missed his son. Every day he looked out of the window. He wanted his son to come home.

One day he looked out the window and saw his son coming. He ran to his son. Then he hugged him and gave him a big kiss. "I've missed you," he said.

The son started to ask his daddy if he could work for him. But his daddy told some people to put the nicest clothes on his son. Daddy decided to have a party. He was so happy he wanted to tell everybody about it. "I thought I would never see my son again but now he is here with me."

When his older son came back from his work in the field he heard the music from the party. "I wonder who the party is for," he thought. He soon found out it was a party for his younger brother. He was very angry. "Why does my daddy never have a party for me? My brother has been silly. My brother spent all his money. He has been very naughty. I'm not going to join the party."

The daddy tried to make him join the party. "Don't be silly," he said to his son. "All the money I have left is yours. But I'm happy because I thought we would never see your brother again. I don't care how naughty or silly he has been. I am just happy that he is back home with us now. I love him very much and I love you very much too."

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### After telling the story

Ask them questions like the ones below to see if they were listening to the story. Focus on the teaching point that God wants to know if we love him more than what we do.

1. Why was the younger brother silly? **He spent all his daddy's money.**
2. Did the daddy keep looking out for his son after he had left home? **Yes.**
3. Why did the son decide to go home? **He was hungry and he knew his daddy had food.**
4. What happened when he got home? **His daddy ran to him, kissed him, gave him the best clothes and had a party.**
5. Did the older brother join the party? **No.**

We all do naughty things (all our mummies have told us off). But God wants to know if we love him or not. In our story the son stopped loving his daddy for a bit. But then he started to love him again. We should always love God. Ask the children if they love God.

### Worship:

Bring a box decorated as a Bible (or a treasure chest) and put in it these questions to ask the children from God:

1. Do you love me?
2. Do you want to be my friend
3. Do you want to be good?

When the children answer yes. Tell them God is very happy. Then have fun praising God together.

### Warfare:

In the treasure chest use in the warfare have some prayer questions from God. For example:

1. Would you like me to help sad people happy?
2. Is there somebody who is sick that you would like me to make better?
3. Would you like me to stop people fighting?

Get the children to use these questions as the basis for prayers. You can lead them praying together for these issues.

## **Activity:**

Send a letter to God.

Give the children a copy of the special picture letter. They can colour it in and write their own name on it (if they can). Then have a big postbox to send all the letters to God.

## **Memory Verse:**

Don't forget to teach the memory verse. Luke Chapter 19 verse 10: "Jesus came to seek and save the lost."

Get the children to look for somethin in the first part of the verse, with a worried expression then to find it an look happy for the second part.

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## Week 3:

**Word:** Luke 15:11-32

**Theme:** The Lost

**Teaching point:** Love people nobody else loves

**Aim:** To teach the children to love everybody, even if nobody else loves them.

**Way of telling the story:** Have a number of different hats (one for each character in the story). If you can, make up different voices for each character as well. As you tell the story and change from one person to the other change your hat and your voice. (Try rehearsing this in front of a mirror or a long suffering family member.)

### The Story:

Jesus loved to tell people stories:

He told stories to let people know what God is like.

He told stories to tell people what would happen.

He told stories to help people know what to do.

People loved to listen to Jesus' stories.

One time Jesus told this story to show that Daddy God will always love us no matter what we do. Daddy God loves us even if we are really naughty. In fact Daddy God loves everybody:

Once upon a time there was a man who had two sons. His youngest son came to him and said:

"Daddy, when you go to heaven all your money will be my brothers and mine. I will have some of it and my brother will have the rest. But daddy I don't want to wait for you to go to heaven. I want my money now."

The daddy was sad, but he gave his youngest son the money. The son then traveled far away. He walked for days and days and days until he was in a different country! When he got there he went to party after party. He

## Parables of The Lost

bought lots of things he didn't need. In fact he spent so much money that soon it was all gone. He was very silly.

Soon he had nothing left to eat or to drink. He tried to get a job so he could get some food. But the only job he could find was feeding pigs. Nobody wanted to feed pigs. It was a horrible job but he had to do it. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pig food.

Suddenly he realized how silly he had been: "My daddy doesn't let his servants live like this. Here I am almost dying because I have no food. At home there is lots of food to eat. I am going to go home and ask my daddy to let me work for him. If I work for my daddy then I will have some food. So he started to walk home.

Meanwhile, back at home, his daddy was still sad. He missed his son. Every day he looked out of the window. He wanted his son to come home.

One day he looked out the window and saw his son coming. He ran to his son. Then he hugged him and gave him a big kiss. "I've missed you," he said.

The son started to ask his daddy if he could work for him. But his daddy told some people to put the nicest clothes on his son. Daddy decided to have a party. He was so happy he wanted to tell everybody about it. "I thought I would never see my son again but now he is here with me."

When his older son came back from his work in the field he heard the music from the party. "I wonder who the party is for," he thought. He soon found out it was a party for his younger brother. He was very angry. "Why does my daddy never have a party for me? My brother has been silly. My brother spent all his money. He has been very naughty. I'm not going to join the party."

The daddy tried to make him join the party. "Don't be silly," he said to his son. "All the money I have left is yours. But I'm happy because I thought we would never see your brother again. I don't care how naughty or silly he has been. I am just happy that he is back home with us now. I love him very much and I love you very much too."

After telling the story

Ask them questions like the ones below to see if they were listening to the story. Focus on the teaching point that we should love everybody even if nobody else loves them.

1. Why was the younger brother silly? **He spent all his daddy's money.**
2. Did the daddy keep looking out for his son after he had left home? **Yes.**
3. Why did the son decide to go home? **He was hungry and he knew his daddy had food.**
4. What happened when he got home? **His daddy ran to him, kissed him, gave him the best clothes and had a party.**
5. Did the older brother join the party? **No.**

Ask the children to tell you about their friends. Then ask them to tell you about anybody they don't like. Explain how in the story the daddy loved both his sons even when they were silly or naughty. He loved them even when they didn't love each other any more.

**Worship:**

Choose songs that speak about Jesus being our friend.

For example *to the tune of Freres Jacques*:

I love Jesus, I love Jesus,

He's my friend, He's my friend.

He will never leave me; He will never leave me,

He's my friend, He's my friend.

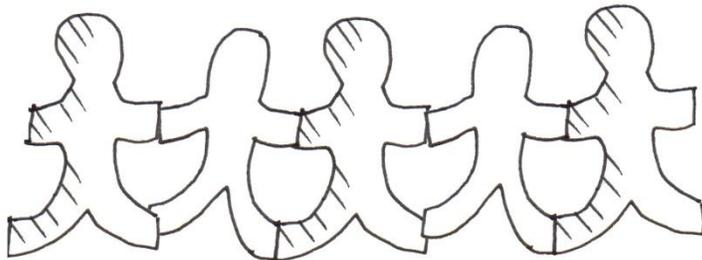
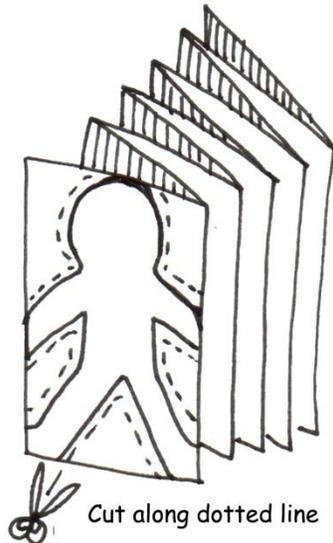
**Warfare: For others**

Show the children some clothes and explain how some people don't have any clothes. Then let the children put their hands on the clothes and pray for people who do not have any to get some.

Do the same thing with some food and some juice.

## Activity:

1. Make a chain of people:
  - a. Take a sheet of A4 and fold it into a fan (with about 5 segments).
  - b. Cut out the shape of a person making sure that at their arms and legs you go right to the edge of the page.
  - c. Open up the folded sheet and you should have 5 men all linked together. (If they are not linked then you did not cut the arms and legs to the ends).
2. On one side write *God loves everybody*.
3. Then let the children decorate the other side making each person look different.



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## Memory Verse:

Don't forget to teach the memory verse. Luke Chapter 19 verse 10: "Jesus came to seek and save the lost."

Get the children to look for somethin in the first part of the verse, with a worried expression then to find it an look happy for the second part.

## Week 4:

**Word:** Luke 15:11-32

**Theme:** The Lost

**Teaching point:** God loves everybody.

**Aim:** To teach the children that God loves everybody no matter what they do.

**Way of telling the story:** Move around the room.

Scene 1: On the farm.

Scene 2: The son rebels.

Scene 3: The son returns.

Leave a teddy as the daddy looking out for his son in the farm. Point out to the children that the daddy is still looking for his son when the son is about to return.

### The Story:

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People loved to listen to Jesus' stories.

One time Jesus told this story to show that Daddy God will always love us no matter what we do. Daddy God loves us even if we are really naughty. In fact Daddy God loves everybody:

Once upon a time there was a man who had two sons. His youngest son came to him and said:

"Daddy, when you go to heaven all your money will be my brothers and mine. I will have some of it and my brother will have the rest. But daddy I don't want to wait for you to go to heaven. I want my money now."

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## Parables of The Lost

The daddy was sad, but he gave his youngest son the money. The son then traveled far away. He walked for days and days and days until he was in a different country! When he got there he went to party after party. He bought lots of things he didn't need. In fact he spent so much money that soon it was all gone. He was very silly.

Soon he had nothing left to eat or to drink. He tried to get a job so he could get some food. But the only job he could find was feeding pigs. Nobody wanted to feed pigs. It was a horrible job but he had to do it. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pig food.

Suddenly he realized how silly he had been: "My daddy doesn't let his servants live like this. Here I am almost dying because I have no food. At home there is lots of food to eat. I am going to go home and ask my daddy to let me work for him. If I work for my daddy then I will have some food. So he started to walk home.

Meanwhile, back at home, his daddy was still sad. He missed his son. Every day he looked out of the window. He wanted his son to come home.

One day he looked out the window and saw his son coming. He ran to his son. Then he hugged him and gave him a big kiss. "I've missed you," he said.

The son started to ask his daddy if he could work for him. But his daddy told some people to put the nicest clothes on his son. Daddy decided to have a party. He was so happy he wanted to tell everybody about it. "I thought I would never see my son again but now he is here with me."

When his older son came back from his work in the field he heard the music from the party. "I wonder who the party is for," he thought. He soon found out it was a party for his younger brother. He was very angry. "Why does my daddy never have a party for me? My brother has been silly. My brother spent all his money. He has been very naughty. I'm not going to join the party."

The daddy tried to make him join the party. "Don't be silly," he said to his son. "All the money I have left is yours. But I'm happy because I thought we would never see your brother again. I don't care how naughty or silly he has

been. I am just happy that he is back home with us now. I love him very much and I love you very much too."

### After telling the story

Ask them questions like the ones below to see if they were listening to the story. Focus on the teaching point that God loves everybody.

1. Why was the younger brother silly? **He spent all his daddy's money.**
2. Did the daddy keep looking out for his son after he had left home? **Yes.**
3. Why did the son decide to go home? **He was hungry and he knew his daddy had food.**
4. What happened when he got home? **His daddy ran to him, kissed him, gave him the best clothes and had a party.**
5. Did the older brother join the party? **No.**

Ask the children to show you how much God loves them using their hands. Then get them to show you how much God loves their mummy and their daddy. Go through other key people in their lives (brothers and sisters, friends at nursery/pre-school, etc.)

### Worship:

Hide instruments around the room. Let the children find them and then use them in their worship time.

### Warfare:

Hide some picture prayer cards around the room. These should be pictures that have prayer ideas on them. Let the children find them.

### **Activity:**

Give each child a glasses frame template.

Let them decorate it themselves.

Write on the glasses "God is looking for you." Tell them that God is looking for people to love them and help them.

When the children have done this, let them put the glasses on and look for people/teddies to pray for who need God's help.

### **Memory Verse:**

Don't forget to teach the memory verse. Luke Chapter 19 verse 10: "Jesus came to seek and save the lost."

Get the children to look for somethin in the first part of the verse, with a worried expression then to find it an look happy for the second part.