

Question: Have you ever thought you were being treated unfairly?

How does that feel?

In this story Jesus tells, the older brother at the end of the story is going to feel like he has been treated unfairly. See if you agree or disagree with how he feels after we read.

Read Luke 15:11-32.

8 Things:

1. What did the younger son want from his dad?
2. Is it customary to demand your inheritance BEFORE your parents pass away?
3. What did the young man do with all that money?
4. What did he decide to do when his money was all gone?
5. Did he think his dad would be glad to see him? Why not?
6. Was his dad glad to see him? Why?
7. Was the older brother glad? Why not?
8. Do you identify with the older brother, the Dad or the repentant son?

Explore: Luke 15:31-32

Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to _____ this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was _____, but now he is _____!

Express: Just like the Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin... All of heaven _____ when a sinner comes back to God!

Thinker Question: Why would Jesus be telling this parable and the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin to a bunch of tax collectors & sinners that have been shunned by the religious experts of the day?

Do you think Jesus wants us to think we are better than others because we have decided to follow him? Does he want us to be happy when unbelievers come to him too? Why? How does Ephesians 2:8-9 apply to this discussion?

God saved you by his _____ when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from _____. Salvation is _____ a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can _____ about it.

Answer: _____
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Question: Have you ever broken something and it couldn't be fixed? How did you feel? Did you wish you could go back in time and undo it? How do we make up for something that we can't fix at all?

Jesus knows that we need to show other people mercy just as much as we need mercy. See if you can explain what this means after we read.

Read Matthew 18:21-35.

Five Things:

1. Do you think Jesus answered Peter's question the way Peter wanted his question answered?
2. What did the king do for the man who couldn't repay the million dollars he owed?
3. Was that same man kind to another man who owed him even less money than that?
4. What happened to the unforgiving man?
5. How does God feel about people who need forgiveness themselves but refuse to forgive others?

Explore: Matthew 6:14-15

If you _____ those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will _____ you. But if you refuse to _____ others, your Father will not _____ your sins.

Express:

We must _____ others because God _____ us.

Match the following verses about forgiveness:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Ephesians 4:32 | Do not repay evil with evil |
| Romans 12:17 | Forgive because we have been |
| Luke 6:31 | Don't hold a grudge |
| Leviticus 19:18 | Forgive every single time |
| Luke 17:3-4 | Do to others what you'd like |

Experience:

Make a personal prayer asking God to help you be forgiving towards other and thank him for the forgiveness you have received.

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