

**5\_26\_13 Luke 15 Parables of the Lost**  
**Ideas for SS classes, small groups, etc.**

**P**ray together, **R**elate to each other, **E**at together, **S**tudy together, **S**erve together  
**PRESS** on toward the goal of growing in Jesus!

**General outside activity** – Have each family draw one paper from each of the following categories:

<b>Size</b>	<b>hair color</b>	<b>eye color</b>	<b>gender</b>	<b>wearing this color</b>
Tall	blonde	blue	male	red
Short	red	brown	female	blue
Big	brown	blue	male	green
Small	black	brown	female	white
Tall	bald	blue	male	yellow
Short	white	brown	female	black

Add or duplicate enough specific attributes so that each family can draw one paper from each category. Give each family an unopened candy bar.

Go to a park or shopping mall, etc., and have each family find someone that fits their description and give them the candy bar. How hard did you have to look? Was your person surprised that you were looking for them and had found them? Were you surprised that you found them? How did it feel to give your candy bar away?

**Luke Team Memory Verse – 1 John 3:16-18** - What better way to demonstrate teamwork and the results it can bring than to do our memory verse for the Luke series as a team? The concept is that each week a leader cuts apart each line of the memory verse and hands each section to a member of their group/class. Each person is to memorize their section of the verse and know where it goes. If you rotate parts, by family or person, then you might all learn the whole verse before the sessions are over.

**Eat together** – Rotate through families/people to bring some form of food to share. If you need adult time, ask the kids to prepare and serve the food. If you need kids' time, ask some of the adults to prepare and serve the food. Food could also be prepared and served by the family/people that brought the food. It would be great to have **PARTY FOOD** this week.

**Pray together** – PRAISE – thank God for who He is; REPENT – Ask God to forgive and help us; ASK – Ask God for things that others need; Ask God for things that you need; YIELD – Tell God that you trust HIM with whatever He provides and with whatever He has planned. Thank Him that you can trust His love.

**Study together**

**Luke 15:11-31– serving with God's heart**

**Vs 11-31 – the lost son**

Vs 11-12

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Draw a picture of something you really, really wanted that you actually got. The younger brother in this story really, really wanted to be able to leave home and live his own life, so he asked his father for his part of the family money. His father gave it to him! What do you think he felt like when he had the money in his hands to do what he really, really wanted to do?

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

In their culture, should the younger son have had any inheritance?  
How could this division have affected the family dynamics?

Vs 13-16

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Tell us about the thing that you drew that you really, really wanted. Do you still have it? Do you still use it? How long did it make you happy? The young brother in this story was REALLY happy...until he spent all his money. He had to get a job, and it was an awful job. He was very hungry and very tired and very sad. He realized that he had made a lot of bad decisions.

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

Have you ever bought/lived something on impulse that you later regretted? What were the consequences of your purchase?

What does impulse buying/living say about us?

This is a good place to advertise the Financial Peace class!

Vs 17-19

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Who do you go to when you have a problem? (Hopefully mom and dad are included in the list!) What do you do if your problem is WITH your mom/dad? What if you are mad at them or you've done something to hurt them or their stuff or you've done something really stupid? Would you still go to them? Why? Why not? When this young man thought about what he could do he remembered his dad and how good his dad was to the people that worked for him. He decided to go back home and ask his dad to hire him as one of his workers.

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

What does it take to get you to make a plan? Do you tend to avoid planning, setting goals and making budgets until you HAVE to pay attention? How does God work in your life to help you make and stick to a plan?

Vs 20-24

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Do you like family reunions? Why, why not? What would it feel like to go somewhere and meet someone who was looking for you to bless you? (Use the candy bar activity as an illustration.)

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

How/when have you felt welcomed?

How does God welcome you?

How do you welcome others?

Vs 25-27

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Draw a picture (or pantomime) of a family chore. After discovering and talking about them, find out how they would feel if they were the only ones doing the chores while everyone else just played. Why was the older brother surprised at the sound of the party?

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

How has the older brother occupied his time while his brother has been away? What could he have done better?

Vs 28-30

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Have a contest to see who can say "But it's not fair!" the best. When was the last time you said that? That's what the older brother said.

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

How is the older brother right? How is he wrong?

Vs 30-32

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Act out the story. Who do you want to be? Why?

Is there someone in your life who you want to be like the father in this story?...always looking, always welcoming, always forgiving? Jesus told this story to help us understand that God is like that. As we grow to be more like God, we will also be like that with the people around us.

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

Have you ever felt or experienced what this father experienced?

Who do you identify with in this story? Why?

Describe God's love.