

Watch Alice's teaching from minute 9:40-22:11 OR

Have someone read this abbreviation of the story to your group or read the whole story of the Prodigal Son found in Luke 15:11-31.

"There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

13 "Not long after that, he set off for a distant country where he wasted all he had and became, hungry, working for pig leftovers.

17 "When he came to his senses, he said, '...I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son tried to apologize, "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe, put a ring on his finger make a great meal, Let's Party!. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field and heard about his brothers return and the party his father was throwing. 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

1. Who do you identify with most in the story? Why do you think most often we think of this as a story about a naughty son?
2. What main message do you think Jesus was trying to get across about God by telling this story?
3. Which of the 4 things Alice talked about in her teaching - watching, seeing or running - resonated with you when it comes to thinking about how God loves you? Which of them resonated with you when it comes to thinking about how you can better love your family?
4. In what ways are you breaking God's heart by running away from him? In what ways might you be breaking God's heart by trying to be obedient and "good?"
5. Do you believe your heavenly Father loves you even when you break his heart? Why or why not?