



Year 8

Philosophy,

Ethics &

Religion

Teachings of

Jesus

How to use this workbook

You will be expected to work through this booklet whilst you are off. It will include much of the information that you have been learning about in your PER lessons as well as new content that you may not have covered yet.

Information

This booklet will contain all the information you will need and you will not be required to do online research. The information will always be presented in the simplest way possible, with images to support and additional explanations to give you the best opportunity to learn. However, you may wish to do online research on some information that you do not fully understand or if you are interested.

Questions

Each section will contain information and questions or tasks for you to complete. Some tasks are to help you start to think about the topic.

There are also three different types of questions:

- **Green questions:** These are comprehension questions that test whether you have read and understood the information present.
- **Blue questions:** These are to test deeper understanding of information, you will be expected to analyse and interpret quotes, actions and text.
- **Purple questions:** These expect you to evaluate information present, you will have to provide detail answers and opinions. Sometimes you will be expected to weigh up how strong an argument is.

Lesson 6

The Parable of the Lost Son

This is another story that Jesus used to teach his followers about the nature of God.

Watch the clip: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zsmpvcw>

Now, read the story, it is found in the New Testament in the Gospel of Luke chapter 15 verses 11 - 32:

This is the parable that Jesus told: There once was a father that had two sons. One day the younger son said to his father, "Father, could you give me my inheritance?" (Inheritance is money the father would give his children after he had died.) So the father thought about it and decided his sons could have the money now, and he split it evenly between them.

Very soon after the younger son received the money, he decided that since he had so much money he would move to a different country and have some fun with it.

When he left, he left for good. He took every last thing he had and didn't plan on returning. He wanted to be grown up and spend all his money how he wanted with no one to tell him what to do.

So he just left. He left a big farm with many hired men with everything he needed, he left his family, and more importantly he left his father who trusted him enough to give him the money. This probably made his father very sad and I'm sure he missed him very much.

While the son was gone he spent all the money he had right away. He didn't think to save any of it. He ate out every meal every day, he bought fancy cars, he threw wild parties and spent money on many other things that God wouldn't be happy with.

After he had spent all his money, the country he was living in became very poor and they hardly had enough food for everyone. It was even worse for people who had no money because food became even more expensive, so it was very hard for poor people to get any food.

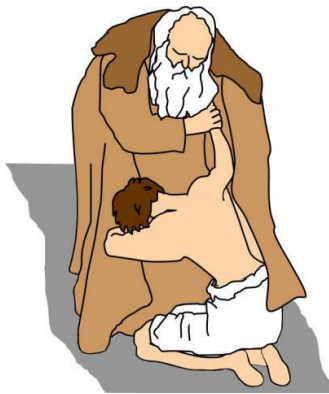
The son was in trouble. He had no money, no place to live, he had nothing to eat, so he had to get a job. The only job he could find was feeding pigs. He was so hungry he tried to eat the food that the pigs were eating but his boss caught him and told him if he ever saw him doing that again he would lose his job.

That night as the son was walking home his stomach wouldn't stop growling, he was so hungry. He saw some people walking towards him and he asked them if they could give him any money for food, but no one would give him anything. Everyone was so poor it was hard to share with anyone.

The son went to bed hungry and when he woke up he realized something. When he lived with his father even the hired men had more food than they needed, and now he was starving to death. At that moment he made a plan. He would go back to his father's house and say to him, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I don't deserve to be called your son, so hire me and I will work for you.'

He knew that if he became like a hired man on his father's farm he would still be better off than he was right now. He would always have a warm place to stay and food to eat. So he headed for home.

It took the son a long time to get home, he was just hoping that his dad would let him work at the farm and let him be a hired man. The son was walking up the to farm but while he was still a long way off and he could see someone notice him and start to run towards him. He was sure that they must have been expecting someone else, no one would be excited to see him.



As the person got closer he realized it was his father and he was yelling, "My son! My son! You are finally home!" He couldn't believe it. His father threw his arms around him and kissed him. But the son quickly said, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I don't deserve to be called your son..." The son wanted to continue but the father said to one of his servants, "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the biggest calf and kill it. Let's have a party and celebrate because my son was lost and is found!"

A little while later, the older son was working in the field and heard music and dancing. So he called to one of the servants and asked what was going on. "Your brother has come home and your father is having a party for his return."

This upset the older brother and he refused to go join the party. The father heard that he was upset, so he went to talk to him and invited him to join the party. But the son refused saying, "Look! I have been working for you all these years and I've never disobeyed you. Yet you never had a big party for me to celebrate with my friends. But now my younger brother has come home, spent all the money you gave him, and you kill the biggest calf for him!"

"But, my son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate and be glad because this brother of yours was lost and now he is found."

In this parable the father in the story is just like God. This is how God would be if we ran away from him and we started doing things we shouldn't. He doesn't give up on us when we do things that are wrong, and he will always forgive us if we've truly changed and repent for what we've done.

Now the older brother in this story just shows how most of us would act if this happened to us. I think we would all be upset if our younger brother or sister ran away for a long time and did a whole bunch of bad things and then came home and your parents threw a big party for him.

The father who had been wronged, was forgiving. But the eldest son, who had not been wronged, was unforgiving. In this parable Jesus gives a clear picture of God and what God is like. God is truly kinder than us.

Like all Jesus' parables, there is a hidden message in this story. Can you think about the following questions? Look at the writing in **bold** to help you.

- Who does the lost son represent in the parable?
The lost son represents....
- Who does the Father represent in the Parable?
The father represents...

Further information

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father forgives his son when he returns and welcomes him home. In the same way, God waits for humans to realise what they have done wrong and ask for forgiveness and welcomes them back when they do. It is the willingness to ask for forgiveness and change one's behaviour that is central to the idea of forgiveness.

In the same way that God forgives humans, so humans have to forgive those around them. If people fail to do so, they cannot expect to be forgiven by God.

What does this parable teach Christians?

What do you think this parable is trying to teach Jesus' followers? Can you explain two teachings found in the parable of the Lost Son.

- 1.
- 2.

Test your knowledge

Now you should check you can remember the story. Which of the missing words below goes in which of the spaces?

A father had sons. The son asked his father for his share of the he would receive and set off on his travels. And he the money his father had given him.

He ended up and homeless. The younger son eventually realised that he would have to return and beg his father's

When he approached the parental home, he saw his father running to greet him. The father told the servants to prepare a to celebrate his son's return.

The son was taken aback and by the welcome given to his brother. The fathers explained that his younger son has been but had now been This is a cause of great celebration.

Missing words: found, wasted, inheritance, younger, forgiveness, poor, upset, home, older, lost, feast, two

Challenge:

1. How do your parents react when you do something wrong?
2. In what way is God like an ordinary Father?
3. How is He different?
4. In what way are we like the Lost Son?
5. In what way are we like the Elder Son?
6. What is the main message of this parable?