

Children and family talk for Mothering Sunday 2022

Good morning!

Today is a special day for our mums, it's called Mothering Sunday, and it's the day when we celebrate the love we have for our Mums, grandmas and any special women in our lives. Of course, we should be showing our parents that we love them on other days too, but this day is a chance to really show mum or another special person in your life, how much they mean. Our bible story today is a story Jesus told about a Father's love. Let's read it together now, it's from

Luke 14 verses 11-32.

The Pharisees and scribes were grumbling about Jesus. ❁ They didn't like the way he welcomed sinners and ate with them. ❁ So Jesus told them this story:

'A man had two sons. The younger son said, "Father, I want my share of the property right now." So the father divided the property up. Before long the younger son took his share, packed his bags and left for a faraway country. He had a great time spending his money until it was all gone. Then a famine hit the land. Nothing grew and there was no food. Poor and hungry, the young man took a job feeding pigs in a field. He was so hungry, he could have eaten the pigs' food! But no one gave him anything.

'As he sat there, he realised, "My father's workers have enough food to eat. Here I am dying of hunger. I must go home. I will tell my father that I have done wrong before him and before God. I will say that I am not good enough to be called his son any more. He should just treat me like one of his workers."

'So the young man set off home. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, ran to him and hugged

him. The son told his father everything he had planned to say, but his father shouted to the servants, "Bring out the best robes, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Kill the fatted calf and we shall celebrate!" ❁ And the party began.

'Now the elder son was working in the field and heard music and dancing. "What is happening?" he asked one of the workers. He replied, "Your brother has come home and your father is holding a party." The elder brother was very angry. His father came to speak to him, but the son shouted, "I have worked hard! I have never disobeyed you. You never threw a party for me. He comes back, he's wasted all your money, and you kill the fatted calf for him!" His father answered, "My son, you are always with me, everything I have is yours. But we are celebrating because I thought your brother was dead, and he's alive. He was lost but now he's found!"

Luke 15:1-3,11b-32

Jesus tells this story to explain how much God loves all of us, and is willing to forgive us when we do the wrong thing, providing we are ready to be forgiven. Even though the younger son did the wrong thing and went far away from his father, wasting his money and inheritance; because he returned and was sorry, his father was waiting to welcome him back, because he loved him. And he didn't just welcome him back, but did it with a big celebration! His older brother didn't understand why his dad did this, as *he* had always done what was right and had never been given such a celebration. But his dad explained, the older son had had good things all his life while living with his dad, everything the dad

had to offer had been his. But the younger son had been lost, dad thought he might have died, and so it was as if he had come back to life, and this was cause for a big celebration.

Have you ever lost anything and felt like you would never get it back? It's a very sad feeling, isn't it? But when you do find it, you jump for joy and run to tell everyone! When someone comes back to God's family, this is a time for God and the family to celebrate because God loves us so much!

Let's talk to God now;

Lord Jesus Christ,

we are sorry when we turn away from you and go our own way.

Please forgive us.

Thank you that your arms are always open to welcome us home.

Amen.

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here is a link for a song, The Prodigal Song - Cory Asbury | To Love A Fool

<https://youtu.be/hOwdQf4kYRs>

And here is the link for the activity page: [activity-sheet-27-march-2022.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-27-march-2022.pdf)