



Forgiveness:

"Be kind to each other, compassionate to each other and forgive each other."

Ephesians 4:31-32



The Lost Son

Luke 15:11-32

Bible Truth: God is happy when we say we are sorry and come back to him.

Jesus said ...

"The younger son was very impatient. He did not want to wait for his father to die to get his inheritance. He wanted his father's money so he could go and spend it. He asked his father to divide all of the money up and give him his part. The father wanted his son to be happy so that is what he did.

The younger son took all of the money and he left home. He went to live in another country that was very far from his home. He bought everything that he wanted. He spent money on parties. People liked him because he had lots

of money. The problem was that soon the money ran out. He had no more money for parties. People stopped liking him. They weren't real friends. They only liked him when he bought them things. The son got a job working for a man who owned some pigs. His job was to feed the pigs. The son was so hungry that he wished he could eat the food the pigs were eating.

Finally, the son began to think about what he had done. He wanted to go home but he thought his father would never forgive him. He couldn't even blame his father for that because he knew he didn't deserve to be forgiven.

As the son got close to his father's house he noticed his father running to meet him. He could not believe it! His father was not even angry. Instead, he was so happy to see his son that he threw his arms around him and gave him a big hug and a kiss.

The son said he was sorry for what he had done. The father loved him so much and was so happy to see him again that he wanted to celebrate. He was happy to forgive his son. He told the servants to cook a big dinner. He put a

beautiful robe on his son. He put a ring on his finger and special sandals on his feet. The father and the youngest son were very happy but the father's older son was jealous. He had never left home and spent all the money but nobody had a party for him. But the father went to the older son and told him that he loved him too. He explained to the son why he was so happy. "Don't you understand son? I am so happy because my son has come home. I thought he was dead but now I know he is alive! Please, let's all be happy together."

Jesus told this parable so that people would understand something about God. Sometimes we are like the young son in the parable. We do things that are wrong. We start to feel very bad. We might think that God would never forgive us.

But God does forgive us! When we tell God we are sorry, he is so happy. He is happy because he loves us and he always wants us to do the right thing.

