

God Will Find His Lost Children
International Bible Lesson

Luke 15:11-24

Sunday, April 24, 2016

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“So the lost son 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” (Luke 15:20).

Jesus revealed in parables what the Father does if one of His children strays, gets lost, or rebels and runs away (see Luke 15). In the Parable of the Lost Sheep, the shepherd searches until he finds his sheep; then he carries it home and celebrates. In the Parable of the Lost Coin, the woman finds her coin; then she tells her neighbors and celebrates. In the Parable of the Lost Son, the son comes to his senses and returns home; then his father welcomes him with compassion and celebrates. In no case will the Father lose one of His children! No matter what, the Father will find His lost children and all heaven will celebrate! Jesus’ parables show that the Father will find His lost children using different methods. In the first two

parables, the seekers search diligently until they succeed. In the third parable, the father prays patiently until he succeeds. Jesus said the lost son “came to his senses,” which means he had “senses” to come to. He got his “senses” from his father and home life. His true and loving memories drew him home. He came to his senses, turned from his disgraceful ways, and began the long walk back to his father. From far away, his father saw him and rushed to him with loving hugs and kisses. In one breath, the father told his servants to prepare a celebration. Likewise, God will receive every lost child who returns to Him.

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Thinking Further

1. When do you think the lost son really left his father?
2. How does God the Father treat some of His lost children compared to the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin in Luke 15?
3. In what ways do the three parables in Luke 15 give you assurance as a child of God?

4. In what ways do you think the father disciplined his son?

5. From your study of this parable, how important can a Christian home and regular Sunday school attendance be in the life of a child of God?