

Sunday School Lesson, January 11, 2026

Rev. Mark A. Seals, Instructor/Teacher

Mike Moore, Superintendent

Lesson—A Generous and Forgiving Parent¹

Text: Luke 15:11-24; Acts 2:38-39

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Articulate the role of repentance in our faith journey.
2. Identify in ourselves (a) the younger son's repentance; (b) the elder son's resentment; (c) the father's generosity.
3. Act with generosity toward sinners, including ourselves.

Why This Lesson Matters: The book of Luke and Acts confirm repentance from sin and turning to God in Christ as the only way to restore one's relationship with God and others.

Key Verse: *This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry. (Luke 15:24, KJV)*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. A Son's Rebellion (*Luke 15:11-20a*)
3. A Father's Grace (*Luke 15:20b-24; Acts 2:38-28*)

III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

Luke, a Gentile physician and Paul's traveling companion, authored the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, providing the biblical context for this lesson's print passages. Luke composed this two-part volume for Theophilus, a supposedly unidentified person, to provide a chronological and orderly account of Jesus' life and ministry and a reliable historical account of the early church.

The immediate context for the lesson in Luke 15 describes Jesus' journey to Jerusalem for the Passover, which preceded his death on the cross. The context for the lesson's passage from the Book of Acts is the people's reaction to Peter's sermon following Jesus' ascension to heaven and the Holy Spirit's descent on the disciples. The context of the passage from Acts is also Peter's response to the Jews

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

convicted by his Pentecost sermon, accusing them of killing Jesus Christ, their Messiah.

The geography of Luke and Acts spans several countries. The gospel account generally focuses on Judea, Galilee, Samaria, and Jerusalem. But the book of Acts details the story of the birth and expansion of the church “to the end of the earth.”

IV. *Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson*

The Apostle Peter: A trusted disciple of Jesus’ and leader of the early church. On the day of Pentecost filled with the Holy Spirit, he stood before thousands and preached a message of repentance and redemption, winning many souls to the kingdom.

The Loving Father: The Father in the parable undoubtedly refers to God the Father, who graciously acquiesces to his younger son’s request for an early withdrawal of his inheritance.

The Prodigal Son: This young, inexperienced son proudly took his inheritance, traveled outside the reach of his father and family, and recklessly squandered every penny he had.

V. *Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)*

Children

Divided

Famine

Had compassion

Portion

Prodigally

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?) Play

How do we account for grace and mercy towards wayward individuals whom we love so dearly? Our best example is how God loved us through Jesus Christ and gave his son for us. God has always, and always will be in the position where he stands ready to welcome us back into the fold.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*