



## **SCHOOL LESSON PLANS AND WORK SHEETS**

### **Lesson Plan 2 Life Talks (the teaching of Jesus)**

Lesson plans have been designed to be used with Yrs 5 & 6 (Upper Key Stage 2)  
We have drawn heavily on material from the RE:Quest website with kind permission from copyright holders ([www.request.org.uk](http://www.request.org.uk)).

We would also recommend use of videos such as Miracle Maker, the Jesus Video or the new children's adaptation of the Jesus video - Jesus Quest

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- a) Recall the visit to the Life Exhibition
- b) Develop the theme of the teachings of Jesus
- c) Consider why Christians believe that the teaching of Jesus is important

#### **Introduction:**

- a) Memories from the "Green Zone" – look at pupil's response sheet
- b) Brainstorm on Teachings of Jesus – what did Jesus teach about?
- c) List as many of the parables of Jesus as possible  
(See enclosed list of parables)

#### **Main Input**

- Focus on the Parable of the Lost Son
- Bible Reading - Luke 15: 11- 32
- Enclosed info sheet (from RE:Quest website)
- Video clips

#### **Individual/Paired Work**

- as per enclosed work sheet
- Jesus teaches about Forgiveness (from RE:Quest website)

#### **Group Work Suggestions or work for more able Pupils**

- Use some of the suggestions from the Lost Son Extension Work sheet  
(from RE:Quest website)

#### **Plenary**

- a) What have you learned about the teachings of Jesus?
- b) Why do Christians say Jesus' teachings are so important?
- c) "A parable is an ordinary story with a deeper spiritual meaning." - What do you think?



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### **THE PARABLES OF JESUS**

- The Good Samaritan - Luke 10
- The Great Banquet - Luke 14
- Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13
- The Pharisee and the Tax Collector - Luke 18
- The Lost Coin - Luke 15
- The Lost Son - Luke 15
- The Rich Fool - Luke 12
- The Weeds - Luke 13
- The Sheep and the Goats - Matthew 25
- The Two Debtors - Luke 7
- The Two Sons - Matthew 21
- The House on the Rock - Matthew 7 and Luke 6
- The Lost Sheep - Matthew 18 and Luke 15
- The Sower - Matthew 13, Mark 4 and Luke 8



## **Lesson Plan 2 Life Talks (the teaching of Jesus)**

### **The Lost Son**

#### Jesus Teaches About Forgiveness

“Jesus spends too much time with bad people,” the Jewish religious leaders muttered to each other.

Jesus responded to their grumbling by telling three parables, or stories with a meaning, about things that were lost. He wanted to show what God the Father is really like. The Parable of the Lost Son is one of these stories.

The main characters in the story are a father and his two sons. One day the younger son said: “Dad, I’d like my share of your land and property now rather than waiting until you die.” His father agreed, but the son took the money and left home for a country far away to have a good time. We can imagine that he wasted money on drink and parties, until he had spent everything his father had given him.

“Now, what shall I do?” the young man thought.

To make matters worse there was a famine in the country where he had gone and it was difficult to get food to eat. In desperation he found himself a job with a farmer of that country, feeding the pigs. For a Jewish man this was a terrible disgrace, because Jews think of pigs as unclean animals. The son was so hungry he would have eaten the pig food to prevent himself from starving.

At last he did some serious thinking and said to himself, “Even my father’s servants have plenty to eat but I’m starving to death. I will go back home and say, ‘Dad, I know I’ve done wrong and I don’t deserve to be your son any more. Please make me one of your servants.’”

You might expect the father would want nothing more to do with this son. However, when he saw him coming home he was so happy that he ran to meet him, threw his arms round him and kissed him. He even gave him the best robe, a ring and sandals – these gifts showed that the father accepted his son back home as an honoured guest. He asked his servants to kill a calf for a special party to celebrate the lost son’s return home.

“I thought my son was dead, but he’s turned up safe and sound!” he exclaimed joyfully.

At this point the third character in the story entered – the older brother. How do you think he felt about all the fuss their father was making of his ‘good-for-nothing’ brother? Well, he was extremely angry and jealous and refused to join in the celebrations. “I’ve slaved away for you for years and never disobeyed you, but you never killed a calf and gave a party for me and my friends”, he complained to his father. “My brother wastes all his money and gets welcomed home like a hero”.



**Lesson Plan 2 Life Talks (the teaching of Jesus) continued**

The father was sad that his older son felt like this. "You know I appreciate you and everything I own belongs to you," he told him. "We must celebrate the safe return of your brother who was lost but has been found again."

Jesus told this story to show the people, especially the religious leaders, that God is a loving and forgiving Father. Just as the father in the story welcomed back the son who admitted his mistakes and asked for forgiveness, so God will forgive us for our sins or wrongdoings if we are truly sorry. The elder son who was jealous of his brother is just like the religious leaders who disliked Jesus taking an interest in bad people.

You can find this story in the Bible - Luke chapter 15 verses 11 – 32.

**The Lost Son: (SUGGESTED GROUP WORK)  
Jesus Teaches About Forgiveness**

A parable is an imaginary story told to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.

Task: To find out from the story of the Lost Son what Christians believe about forgiveness.

1. Read the story from the Bible. You can find it in Luke chapter 15 verses 11 – 32. One person can read it aloud to the group.
2. Go to 'Bible – Life and Teaching of Jesus' and choose 'The Lost Son' (<http://www.request.org.uk/main/bible/jesus/lostson/lostson01.htm>)
3. Read the story carefully, and then go to the quiz. There are ten questions to test your knowledge of the story!
4. Make a poster to show what Christians believe about forgiveness, after looking at the parable of The Lost Son.
5. Retell the story of The Lost Son from the point of view of the older brother. Show how he felt about the welcome their father gave to his younger brother.
6. All talk about the times you have found it hard to forgive people – write down some examples (no names please!)
7. Write the question 'What do Christians believe about forgiveness?' on a piece of paper. Try to come up with some answers, and write them underneath.



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### **The Lost Son Extension Work**

1. Re-tell the story of the Lost Son from the point of view of the older brother. Show how he felt about the welcome that their father gave to his younger brother.
2. Write a modern story about a son or daughter who upsets or disappoints their parents. Explain what they do and how the parents behave towards them.
3. As human beings we can find it very hard to forgive people who have wronged us. Give some examples of times when you have found it difficult to forgive. Look for situations in the news where the people involved might need to forgive others.
4. Do some research into the food laws that Jews have to keep as an important part of their religion. Ask your teacher for information to help you.
5. In Luke's Gospel chapter 15 you can read two other stories about lost things – one about a sheep and one about a silver coin. Read verses 1 – 10 and tell each story in your own words.
6. Look at the 'Basics – Forgiveness' section of the RE: Quest website. What do you learn there about God's forgiveness?