

## Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way



March 6, 2016

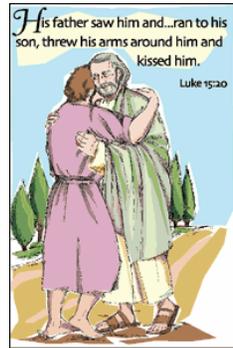
Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Joshua 5:9-12**

**Psalm 32 (11)**

**2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**



**Lost and Found.** Object: None Needed.

Have you ever lost something that was very precious to you? How did you feel? Have you ever found something that you had lost? If so, how did you feel when you found it?

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus told a story about a man who lost something that was very precious to him. The story also told of the man's joy when that which he had lost was found. This is the story that Jesus told.

A man had two sons. The younger son asked his father to give him his share of the inheritance that he had coming to him. The father gave it to him, and the boy left home to go out and see the world and have some fun. The father was broken-hearted. He had lost one of his sons.

It wasn't long before the boy had wasted all of his money on wild living. He had no money to buy anything to eat, so he got a job feeding pigs. Can you imagine sloshing around in the mud with a bunch of smelly pigs? It was the worst job you can imagine, but he was so hungry that even the food that he was feeding the pigs looked good to him.

The boy looked around at the situation he had gotten himself into and said to himself, "My father's servants live better than this! I will return home and beg for the forgiveness of my father and ask him to take me back as a hired servant." As the boy approached his father's house, his loving father, who had been watching and hoping for his son's return, saw him coming and ran to meet him. He threw his arms around him and hugged him and kissed him.

The father was so happy that his son had returned, that he gave him a robe and placed a ring on his finger. He ordered his servants to prepare a feast. "My son was dead and now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found."

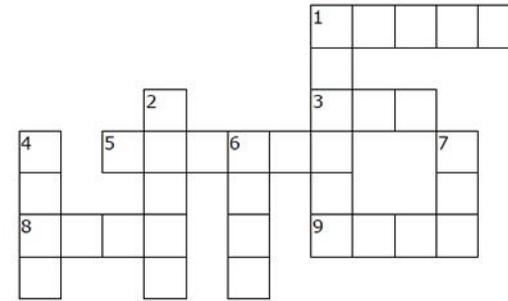
Jesus told this story to show the kind of love God has for his children. When one of God's children strays away, He always welcomes him with open arms when he returns home. Aren't you glad that you have a heavenly Father who loves you, even when you may not deserve it? I am!

Dear Father, we thank you for your unfailing love. We are thankful that even when we stray, you welcome us home with open arms. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. I will arise and go to my father and say, I have sinned against heaven and before you. Alleluia (Luke 15:18)

## Crossword Puzzle



### ACROSS

- When something which was lost has been relocated. (I \_\_\_\_\_ my dog).
- The number that is equal to one plus one.
- A large amount of money and other valuable possessions.
- Your male children.
- A piece of jewelry, generally made of precious metal and worn on the finger.

### DOWN

- A male parent.
- A large special meal to celebrate something or honor someone.
- To touch or press your lips against another person as a greeting or to express love.
- To not be able to be found. (I \_\_\_\_\_ my dog.)
- Farm animals with pink, brown, or black skin, short legs, and a flat nose.

TWO	SONS	FEAST	RING	FOUND
PIG	WEALTH	FATHER	LOST	KISS

**PIG PUPPET:** Give the children a brown paper lunch bag to make a PIG puppet. Ahead of time you will need to draw 4 hooves to cut out; 2 ears, 2 eyes and one snout, a curly tail from paper or a pipe cleaner tail. Children can tape on the pig parts to form their pig puppet and can share today's story.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN  
LENT

# THE LOST SON RETURNS



Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was  
dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.  
Luke 15:23b-24 (NIV)