

Crossword Puzzle

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

March 31, 2019

Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

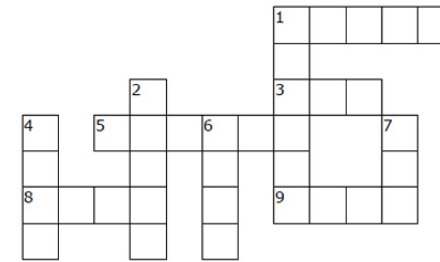


Fourth Sunday in Lent

Have you ever lost something that was very precious to you? Your favorite teddy bear, or your favorite bracelet? 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 any of God's children strays away, God always welcomes them with open arms when they return home. Aren't you glad that you have a God who loves you, even when you may not deserve it? I am!

Loving God, we thank you for your unfailing love. We are thankful that even when we stray from you, you open your arms wide to welcome us home. Thank you for loving us, no matter what. Amen.



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

Activity: Play this game like a Hide and Seek game, or hide things that the children have to find when the teacher calls out an item. When the item is found, the children will call out, "LOST, BUT FOUND."

Discussion Question Have you ever had an animal run away? If I'm not careful, my dog will run out of the front door and take off through our neighborhood. When she does this, I drop everything I'm doing to go get her. Perhaps God is like this too. God loves us so much that God will seek to find us no matter where we've run to, and when God finds us, God's heart is so very happy.

Family Table Prayer for March:

Oh, the Lord's been good to me.
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need:
The sun, the rain and the apple seed;
Oh, the Lord's been good to me.

March Memory Verse: Zechariah 10:1 Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms.

He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone.

Coloring Page



**Jesus told the parable of the prodigal son.
Luke 15:11-32**