

## Lesson Eleven - Part One

# A Son Who Left His Father Was Sorry

**Scripture:** Luke 15:11-24.

**Lesson Aim:** To learn about a son who thought leaving home was the right thing to do. He later learned that being home with his father was best for him. He returned to his father sorrowful and asking for forgiveness.

**Bible Words:** I will be sorry (Psalm 38:18).

**Pre-Class:** Have one picture-to-color completed so the children can use it as a guide when coloring theirs. Give each child a picture and some crayons when they arrive.

The young man in the picture is leaving his father's home. Tell the children that in today's Bible lesson, you will tell them about the son who left his father's home to travel to a new town to live.

When it is time for class to begin, label the pictures and take them up until **Closing**.

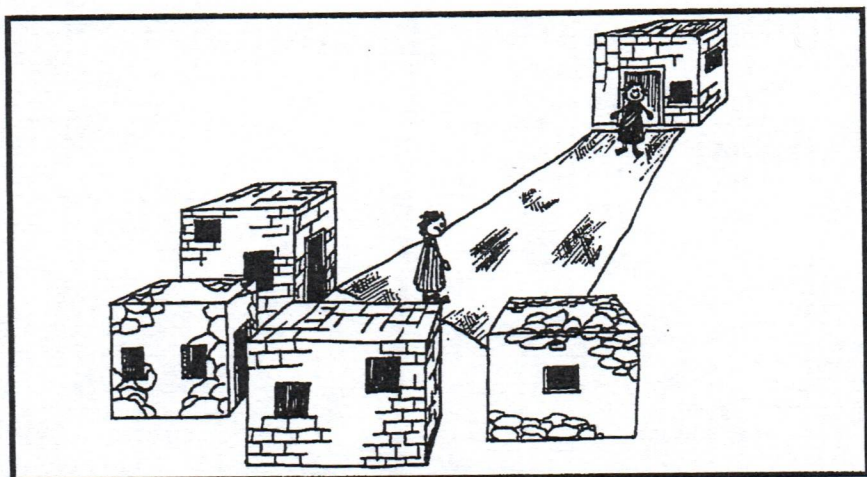
**Attendance And Welcome:** As the children come forward to add to their charts, sing *The Welcome Song* for each one. Make your visitors feel especially welcome. Ask each child to tell you about some fun things he/she did last week.

**Bible Lesson:** You will need the picture used during **Pre-Class**, chenille wire, fabric, yarn, several small boxes,\* white paint, and a brown paper bag. Before class paint and decorate the boxes to resemble buildings. Make two chenille wire figures.\*\* Cover the people with fabric and secure with yarn. Cut the brown bag to resemble a roadway. Set up the scene on a table or on the floor. (For ideas on setting up the scene, see illustration on page 44.)

\* The boxes should be at least two inches taller than the chenille wire figures.

\*\* Faces could be added to the figures. If you decide to add faces you will need four wire figures. Two are for the son — one with a happy face, as he is leaving home, and the other with a sad face, as he is returning home. Two are for the father — one with a sad face, for when the son is leaving, and one with a happy face, for when the son is returning.





When you first arrived I gave you a picture like this one to color. Hold up your picture. In this picture we see a young man leaving his home. I will now tell you about that young man and why he is leaving home. Sit the children where everyone will be able to see.

Add the son and father figures to the scene. The Bible tells us about a young man who wanted to move to another town to live. He did not want to live at his father's house anymore. The father gave the son some money. The son packed his clothes, took his money and went to a different town. Walk the son figure toward the boxes set up for the town. Take the father figure and house away. Place the son in the town.

For a while the son had a great time in the new town. He made friends, spent his money, and laughed, and played a lot.

Add the father. Every day, while the son was away, the father looked to see if he could see him coming back home. He looked and he looked but he did not see his son coming down the road. Remove the father.

Soon the son had spent all of his money. His friends had left him and he had nowhere to live and no food to eat. He was sorry that he had left his father's house. He knew if he was at his father's house, he could sleep in a nice bed, he would have lots of food to eat, and he would have his father with him once again.

Place the son at the edge of town. One day the son decided to return to his father's house. He started walking home. He wondered if his father would let him come back home and he wondered if his father would still love him.

Add the house and the father. *The father came out to look for his son. He was very happy when he saw his son coming down the road. The father ran to meet him. Move both figures close together.*

*The father kissed him and hugged him. The son said, "Father I have done wrong." The father gave the son special gifts to let him know he loved him and that he was welcomed back to the house. The son was happy knowing his father still loved him.*

*I like a story with a happy ending, do you? I am glad the son came back home. I am glad his father still loved him.*

**Songs:** You will need the song charts for all the songs learned so far and ***I Have A Father***. As you lead the children in song, take time to review the songs to make sure they understand what they are saying. Your song time is not beneficial if they do not understand the words.

Following ***The Prayer Song***, thank God for a loving Father who loves us and forgives us when we do wrong.

**Application Lesson:** Do the action play:

There once was a son who left his father's home  
to move to another town.

*(Walk in place.)*

He laughed and played with his friends for a while  
*(Pretend to be laughing)*

but then he had no money, no food, and no home.  
*(Shake head, "No.")*

Poor son, poor son, how very sad he was.  
*(Make a sad face.)*

His father looked for him every day.  
*(Put hands over eyes as if looking off into the distance.)*

Soon he saw the son coming down the road.  
*(Look happy.)*

They hugged and kissed.  
*(Do arms as if hugging someone and your lips as if kissing someone.)*

"I am sorry," said the son. "I love you," the father said.  
They were happy once again.  
*(Clap your hands.)*



**Take-Home:** You can use the workbook sheets (stick on the baskets) or make chenille wire figures for the children to take home so they can act out the lesson at home for their parents. (Each child will need two figures, one for the father and one for the son.)

If you decide to make the figures, you will need to make them before class. During the class the children can add clothes to their figures. You will need to assist them in tying the yarn around the figures.

**Bible Lesson Review:** If you made the chenille wire figures during **Take-Home** let the children act out the lesson as you review it. Otherwise show the picture from **Pre-Class** as you review.

**Closing:** Return papers and all personal items to the children. Assist those who need help getting their things together to leave. Invite everyone to return next week.

This week send cards to or telephone your visitors to invite them to come to your class again.

**Other Ideas:**

1. Instead of doing the action play suggested for the application lesson, read a book about a child who was sorry and whose parents showed they forgave him and still loved him. Look at your Christian bookstore or public library for books that might cover this subject.
2. Since this lesson concerns a father who looked for his son to come home, stand at the classroom doorway and look for the children. When they arrive, go meet them and tell them you have been looking for them. Let them know you are happy to see them each week when they come to class.