



PRODIGAL SON

“The process of conversion and repentance was described by Jesus in the parable of the prodigal son, the center of which is the merciful father:³⁷ the fascination of illusory freedom, the abandonment of the father’s house; the extreme misery in which the son finds himself after squandering his fortune; his deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to feed swine, and still worse, at wanting to feed on the husks the pigs ate; his reflection on all he has lost; his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father; the journey back; the father’s generous welcome; the father’s joy – all these are characteristic of the process of conversion. The beautiful robe, the ring, and the festive banquet are symbols of that new life – pure, worthy, and joyful – of anyone who returns to God and to the bosom of his family, which is the Church. Only the heart of Christ who knows the depths of his Father’s love could reveal to us the abyss of his mercy in so simple and beautiful a way.” *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1439*

³⁷ Cf. *Lk* 15:11-24.

What Did You Learn About the Prodigal Son?

for younger saints

1. Who does the father in this story represent?
a. your father b. God the Father
2. Who does the prodigal son in this story represent?
a. Jesus b. Saint Peter c. all of us
3. Where is this story found in the Bible?
a. the Old Testament b. the Psalms c. the New Testament
4. How did the father feel about his son leaving home?
a. He waited anxiously and longed for him to return.
b. He was disgusted that his son was so greedy and sinful.
c. He was glad that he at least had one good son left at home.
5. Why did the prodigal son decide to come back home?
a. He needed more money.
b. He wanted to get his brother to come with him.
c. He realized how foolish he had been and wanted to say he was sorry.
6. Luke 15:7 tells us that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who do not need to repent. What does this mean?
7. What does the word “prodigal” mean?
a. one who spends money in a wasteful way
b. one who is wayward
c. one who is disrespectful
8. Recite your memory verse.

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God wants all His children to be with Him, and He rejoices when any of them makes the choice to return to Him. Refer to Luke 15:31 and the words of the father: *"My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."*

7. What does the word "prodigal" mean?

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"Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone...." John 8:7

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Act of Contrition: O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell, but most of all because they offend You, O my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and amend my life. Amen.