

06 – Two Sons - Older
Luke 15: 11-32 [or 25-32]

Step 1: Link (back to the current story)

We are reading the story of Jesus in the book of Luke. We've been spending a lot of time reading one story in chapter 15. The story is about a father and his two sons. One son was – good or bad - ? (... ans) And the other son was - ? (... opposite answer).

Does the Bible teach that there are “good” and “bad” people in the world - ? (... no) The Bible teaches that everyone is – good or bad - ? (... bad)
The Bible teaches that we are all “bad” – we are all sinners.

Here's what “sin” really means. If I draw a target on the board (*do it*), “sin” means that my arrow did not hit the exact center. My shot wasn't perfect. It doesn't matter if it is a little bit “not perfect” or a lot “not perfect.” Being a “sinner” simply means not being perfect.

Step 2: Introduction

Last time we focused on the father in the story. What did we learn about the father - ? (... let them recount ...)

Today we're going to continue in the same story. Today we are going to focus on the older brother.

Step 3: Key Questions

- **What did the older son say about himself?** (*v.29 I have served¹, I have always obeyed*)
- **What did the older son say about his brother?** (*v.30 he wasted your money on prostitutes*)

Step 4: Read **Luke 15: 11-32** [if in a time crunch: 25-32]

Step 5: Answer the questions

Step 6: Talk about it

The older son said that he served and obeyed and the younger son did not. This tells us what was important to the older son. What was important to the older son - ? (... being good, doing good, obeying, etc.)

¹ Or “slaved” – use the word in your classroom Bible

Being good and obeying God are important parts of the Christian life. But being good and obeying cannot take away our sin. Being good and obeying cannot make us perfect, because we are not good 100% of the time. We do not obey 100% of God's commands.

Tell me again what the older brother said about the younger brother. (. . . v.30) This tells us something else that was important to the older brother. What else was important to him - ? (. . . *the money*) His father's money would be his money someday. His heart was tied to that money, that reward. He loved money, not his brother. Was his brother still wasting money with prostitutes - ? (. . . *no*) His brother had changed, his brother had come home, but he didn't care. He wasn't glad.

Did the older brother love his younger brother - ? (. . . *no*) They were brothers, they were family, but he didn't love him.

God made our hearts to love, to love God and to love each other. Let's see what Jesus said about God's law. Mark 12: 29-31. (*s.o.² reads*) What is the most important law³ - ? (. . . [*God is one*]⁴, *to love God*) What is the second most important law - ? (. . . *to love each other*)

But we don't always love. We are like the brothers in the story. The younger brother did not love his father. How do we know - ? (. . . *he ran away.*) The older brother did not love his younger brother. How do we know - ? (. . . *he was angry when he came home.*) Both brothers broke the law of love. Both brothers were sinners.

Have you broken the law of love? (. . .) If you have broken the law of love, Jesus waits to forgive you completely and give you new life in Him.

Do you have any questions or comments?

² someone

³ This terminology from ESV. Use terminology from your classroom Bible.

⁴ "Yes, that is very important! God is one, not many! What else does Jesus say in the most important law - ?" [should lead them to answer "love God."]