



## True Vine's Virtual VBS 2020 *Grades 7-8*

June 15, 2020

Week 3 At Sea: *Lavished With Grace Luke 15:22-23*

- **Deck Plan- Luke 15:20-32**
- **Key Card-** “The Father said to his servants, Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.”
- **Main Seating-** Father, help us to return to You when we have done wrong and receive Your grace in our times of need. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.
- **Bridge/Docking-** Use verses 22-23 in this week’s lesson to identify the four things the father requested for celebrating his son’s return and why each of them was an expression of grace.

The parable of the Prodigal Son is found in Luke 15:11-32.

### **Prodigal Son Story Summary**

The story of the Prodigal Son, also known as the Parable of the Lost Son, follows immediately after the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin. With these three parables, Jesus demonstrated what it means to be lost, how heaven celebrates with joy when the lost are found, and how the loving Father longs to save people.

Jesus was also responding to the Pharisees' complaint: "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

The story of the Prodigal Son begins with a man who has two sons. The younger son asks his father for his portion of the family estate as an early inheritance. Once received, the son promptly sets off on a long journey to a distant land and begins to waste his fortune on wild living.

When the money runs out, a severe famine hits the country and the son finds himself in dire circumstances. He takes a job feeding pigs. Eventually, he grows so destitute that he even longs to eat the food assigned to the pigs.

The young man finally comes to his senses, remembering his father. In humility, he recognizes his foolishness and decides to return to his father and ask for forgiveness and mercy. The father who has been watching and waiting, receives his son back with open arms of compassion. He is overjoyed by the return of his lost son.

Immediately the father turns to his servants and asks them to prepare an enormous feast in celebration of his son's return.

Meanwhile, the older son boiles in anger when he comes in from working the fields to discover a party with music and dancing to celebrate his younger brother's return. The father tries to dissuade the older brother from his jealous rage explaining, "You are always with me, and everything I have is yours."

\*\*\*\* Have you ever done something so bad that you knew you were in trouble with your parents? Maybe you hid in shame and fear of the consequences, but after some time you decided to come clean about your wrongdoing. This is what today's text is about. It is about a young man who disrespected his father so badly that his actions suggested that he wished his father were dead. In a desire to live his life on his terms, he asked his dad for his portion of his inheritance. He then went and spent it on lavish and wasteful living until he ran out of money. When he did not have anywhere else to turn, he came to his senses and decided to return home to be a hired servant because he was too ashamed to be called a son. The father had every right to disown his son but he didn't.

Like the father, God's love is constant, patient, and welcoming. God will give us opportunities to repent, turning from our wrong, but God will not force us to do so! God's love reaches out and finds lost sons and daughter, no matter why or how they got lost.