

# Week 1 Bible Study Plan

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

“But 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. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

“ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”

Luke 15:11-32 NIV

# Day One

Read Luke 15:11-32 and use the Speck method to study this passage. Feel free to use extra paper for your answers.

**Sins to Avoid:** Make a list of any sins - wrong actions, attitudes or thoughts - mentioned in this passage. These are things to avoid.

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**Promises to Claim:** Make a list of promises in this passage. We can take these promises to heart to encourage us during hardship.

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**Examples to Follow:** What examples do you find in this passage? Is there a right way of thinking or acting described in this passage that you should take as an example for your life?

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**Commands to Obey:** Write out all the commands you find. If a passage encourages you to take a certain action, take it as a command and write it down.

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**Knowledge of God to Apply:** What does the passage tell you about Christ that you can apply to your daily life?

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# Day Two

Read Luke 15:11-32 and use the OPA method to study this passage. Feel free to use extra paper for your answers.

**Observation:**

Compile all the facts found in this passage. Make observations about all the things Jesus says and the events that happen in the parable.

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**Principle:**

Draw a few principles from the observations that you have made. What is God teaching in this passage?

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**Application:**

How will you apply these principles to your life? Be specific - a good application will tell who, what, and when.

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# Day Three

Read Luke 15:11-32 and use the Newspaper method to study this passage. Feel free to use extra paper for your answers.

**Who:** Make a list of all major characters in this parable.

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**What:** What are the details of what is happening to these characters?

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**Where:** Where do you find yourself relating to characters in this parable?

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**When:** When have you felt like the older brother? When have you felt like the younger brother?

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**Why:** Why did Jesus think it was so important to tell this parable?

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**How:** How does this apply to your life? How are you going to live differently today because of what you read? Remember: Applications should tell who, what, and when.

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# Day Four

Read Luke 15:11-32 and use the What's Up? method to study this passage. Feel free to use extra paper for your answers.

**What did I like about this passage of Scripture?**

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**What things in the passage challenged me?**

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**What did I not understand about this passage?**

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**What did I learn about God?**

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**What specific verse meant the most to me?**

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**What should I do? How does this passage apply to my life?**

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# Day Five

Read Luke 15:11-32 and use the 5P method to study this passage. Feel free to use extra paper for your answers.

**Purpose:** Why do you think the author wrote this? Why is it important enough to be in the Bible? In a sentence or two, write what you think the overall theme or topic is.

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**Primary Verse:** Which verse seems to contain the most important thought in the passage? Which one stands out to you the most? Write the verse completely with corresponding reference.

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**Promises:** Make a list of any promises you find. Sometimes the promise might be implied in the passage.

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**Problems:** If you find anything you don't understand - even if it's just a word - write it down as a question. Then ask someone for the answer or look it up yourself. One way to know if you have any problems is to ask yourself, "Is there anything in this passage that I could not explain to a friend?"

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**Practical Application:** Think about what the passage means to you. What action should you take? What action do you need to change or work on so that what you have read is real in your life? Be specific.

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# Day Six

Read Luke 15:11-32 and use the Fact Sheet method to study this passage. Feel free to use extra paper for your answers.

**List:**

Make a list of all the facts you can find in this passage. This will take you the most time because every passage has many. For example, here are a few from John 3:16: God loves the world. He gave His son. You must believe in Jesus.

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**Link:**

Write a brief summary of the passage by linking all the facts together. For John 3:16 you might say, "God loves us more than anything else and He really wants us to live eternally with Him. But we have to believe in Jesus to do that; otherwise, we're dead and separated from Him.

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**Live:**

Explain how you can live out this passage. What difference does it make in your life? Be specific.

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