

# Easy to Forgive?

*One of the most powerful Lenten Sunday lessons is the Parable of the Prodigal Son, a story about God's infinite love and forgiveness found in Luke 15: 11-32.*

11: And he said, "There was a man who had two sons;

12: and the younger of them said to his father, `Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them.

13: Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living.

14: And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want.

15: So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16: And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything.

17: But when he came to himself he said, `How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger!

18: I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

19: I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."

20: And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

21: And the son said to him, `Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

22: But the father said to his servants, `Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet;

23: and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry;

24: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry.

25: "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.

26: And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant.

27: And he said to him, `Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.'

28: But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,

29: but he answered his father, `Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends.

30: But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!

31: And he said to him, `Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

32: It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

# How easy is it for you to forgive?

*Write an E after each thing that would be easy to forgive and an H after each thing that would be hard to forgive.*

Your favorite uncle forgets your birthday. \_\_\_\_\_

A classmate borrows a pencil and loses it. \_\_\_\_\_

Someone steals your bike from your yard. \_\_\_\_\_

Your mom promised to come to your baseball game but has to work instead. \_\_\_\_\_

You tell a friend something and ask him not to tell anyone. Later, you find out that he did tell. \_\_\_\_\_

A classmate teases you about what you're wearing. \_\_\_\_\_

Someone accidentally bumps into you and causes you to drop your lunch tray. \_\_\_\_\_

Your parents have agreed to let you have a few friends over on a Friday night, but later they say you can't because your little brother is sick. \_\_\_\_\_

Someone else takes credit for a good idea that was yours. \_\_\_\_\_

A friend cheats by copying your homework, and you both get in trouble. \_\_\_\_\_

*Now think about what makes it easy or hard to forgive. Make two lists here.*

**It's hard for me to forgive when:**

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**It's easier for me to forgive when:**

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