

S E R M O N O U T L I N E

I'd **LIKE** to
BUT ...

1. MY LOVED ONES WOULD OBJECT

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¹¹ Jesus continued: 'There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, "Father, give me my share of the estate." So he divided his property between them.

¹³ '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. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ '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! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants." ²⁰ 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 round him and kissed him.

²¹ 'The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

²² '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.

²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ 'Meanwhile, the elder son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ "Your brother has come," he replied, "and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound."

²⁸ 'The elder brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But when this son of

yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!”

³¹ ““My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² 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

#1.

GOD UNDERSTANDS REJECTION BY HIS LOVED ONES

¹⁴ For this reason I kneel before the Father [pater], ¹⁵ from whom every family [patria] in heaven and on earth derives its name.

EPHESIANS 3

¹² The younger one said to his father, “Father, give me my share of the estate.” So he divided his property between them. ¹³ ‘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.

LUKE 15

#2.

GOD GAVE HIS SON FOR RECONCILIATION WITH HIS LOVED ONES

²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!”

LUKE 15

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.

COLOSSIANS 1

#3.

GOD USES YOU FOR REDEMPTION OF YOUR LOVED ONES

³ Jesus’ brothers said to him, ‘Leave Galilee and go to Judea, so that your disciples there may see the works you do. ⁴ No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.’ ⁵ For even his own brothers did not believe in him.

JOHN 7

²⁰ Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, 'He is out of his mind.'

MARK 3

¹ Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behaviour of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

1 PETER 3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How have you or any members of your family been saved through the actions and words of other family members?**
- 2. Who are some family members or loved ones who have yet to become Christians? What can you do intentionally to help them to take small steps towards that goal?**
- 3. Do you know anyone who holds back from following Christ because they fear the objections of loved ones? How will you encourage them to overcome this obstacle?**