



## Leader's Guide: The Good Father

To get the most out of your script, here are three things you can do:

1. Read the SCRIPT with as much drama as possible
2. Read the original STORY in your favorite Bible
3. DISCUSS the story



Good discussion requires preparation. This guide provides notes, questions, fun facts and illustrations to make your group discussion rich and enjoyable.

A word about questions: not all the discussion questions in this guide may be useful for your family or group. Pick and frame the questions to suit the ages of your members.

A word about illustrations: paintings and maps bring stories to life. You can use the links and search terms in this guide to make a slideshow to accompany your reading of the Bible story. You may want to put these illustrations on a tablet or cast them onto a big screen for maximum effect.

Before reading each script, ask the Lord to guide your family or group into a greater revelation of his love and grace. These are his stories based on his words. You can trust him to bring forth good fruit.

Feel free to [contact me](#) if you have questions, suggestions, or testimonies of what God has done as a result of reading the Jesus Scripts. And don't forget to [sign up](#) to be notified when new scripts are released.

Grace and peace,  
Paul Ellis  
[JesusScripts.com](http://JesusScripts.com)

## Script: The Good Father

**Story:** Read Luke 15:11–32.

### Leader's Notes

This script is ideal for Father's Day and is suitable for four to eight actors:

Characters	4 actors	5 actors	6 actors	7 actors
1. Narrator	1	1	1	1
2. Joseph	2	2	2	2
3. Korah	3	3	3	3
4. Jesus	4	4	4	4
5. The father	2	2	5	5
6. The son	1	5	6	6
7. The brother	1	5	6	7
8. Servant	4	1	1	1

### Discussion Questions

1. What did you like about this story? Which bit stood out?
2. What does this story reveal about Jesus?
3. Why did the father welcome the lost son?

His lost son had been found (see Luke 11:52)! The father's acceptance of the wayward son had nothing to do with the son promising to work or repay what he had squandered. The father's love was unconditional, just like God's.

4. What did the father give to the lost son? What did the father's gifts represent?

What the Father gave:	Represents:
Hugs and kisses	Love, compassion, forgiveness, acceptance
His best robe	Identity: "this is my son"
Ring on his finger	Favor: the ring represents the father's power, authority, and wealth
Sandals on his feet	Freedom: slaves went bare-footed
Feast with fattened calf	Joy and merriment, the abundant life (alt. Jesus, the sacrificial lamb on whom we feast)

5. If the only thing you knew about God came from the story of the prodigal son, what picture of God would you have?

He is a good and loving father who does not treat us as our sins deserve but blesses us on account of his great love.

6. Why was the older son angry when his younger brother came home?

The father's undeserved favor didn't mesh with the brother's system of debits and credits.

7. What might have happened if the lost son had met his elder brother instead of his father?

The elder brother would have condemned the wayward son. Either he would have driven him away or given him a job among the servants.

Tip: Get two people to role-play the two brothers meeting in the lane.

8. Why do many people not see God as their good father?

They have encountered the elder brother – self-righteous people who have made them feel bad for their mistakes and who expect them to pay before they can join the party.

9. If you were to make a movie of the prodigal son, who would you cast to play the father? Which fictional fathers remind you of the good father in this story?

Some suggestions: Atticus Finch (*To Kill a Mockingbird*), Jean Valjean (*Les Misérables*), Mufasa (*Lion King*), John Quincy Archibald (*John Q*), Marlin (*Finding Nemo*), and Bob Parr (*The Incredibles*).

## Fun Facts

### Who

**Joseph** and **Korah** are fictional characters who are studying to be scribes. A scribe, or expert in the law, studied from the age of 14 until their ordination at the age 40. Scribes were held in high regard in Jewish society, and were included in the parties of the Sadducees and Pharisees. One scribe named in the New Testament was the highly respected Gamaliel (Acts 5:34).

The Joseph in the script comes from Cyprus. He was inspired by a certain New Testament Christian who also came from Cyprus; Joseph Barnabas (Acts 4:36).

### When

The story takes place in the middle of Jesus' ministry.

## Where

The story takes place in Jerusalem, at a rich man's house not far from the temple complex.

## What

Like all religious Jews, Joseph and Korah wore small leather boxes called phylacteries (see Matt. 23:5). These hollow boxes were strapped to their left hands and foreheads and contained quotes from the law.

## Illustrations

The Prodigal Son is such a well-known story that it is not difficult to find great paintings. Some of the best are a series of paintings done by the Spanish Baroque painter Bartolomé Esteban Murillo (1617–1682). He painted "[The Prodigal Son Receiving His Portion](#)", "[The Departure of the Prodigal Son](#)", "[The Prodigal Son Among the Swine](#)" and "[The Return of the Prodigal Son](#)."



"The Return of the Prodigal Son," by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo

Other notable paintings include Rembrandt van Rijn's monumental "[Return of the Prodigal Son](#)" and "[The Return of the Prodigal Son](#)" by Pompeo Batoni. For a modern interpretation, check out the series of paintings, illustrations, and sculptures by the talented British artist Charlie Mackesy including "[The Prodigal Son](#)" and "[The Prodigal Daughter](#)."

### Scripture for reflection

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

– Romans 8:15–17

### Closing Prayer

Thank you, Jesus for showing us that God is our Father in heaven who loves us. Thank you, Father, for being good to us even when we are no good to anyone. Thank you for not treating us as our sins deserve. Thank you for your unfailing love and compassion.

Help those who have lost their way to find their way home again. Help those who are weary to find their rest in you. Help us to resist the siren song of sin and selfishness and remain settled in your love.

Lord, we pray that your Spirit would show us who we truly are – your dearly loved sons and daughters. Help us to grasp the breadth, depth and height of your great love for us. May we never forget that there is nothing we can do to make you love us more and nothing we can do to make you love us less. We love you, Father. Help us to show your love to those who need it. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

