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Sunday School Times

Published almost weekly, but more like…..whenever, so get used to it, OK?

# Providing Pig Provisions

***Stuff For Today***

• Wait, Wait, Let Me Guess!

• Of Ice Hockey and OREOs

* Children’s books
* Prince Charmin—a story

**By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com**

 ***Luke 15: 11-32***

**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 around 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 older 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 older 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.’”**

This passage is commonly known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. The narrative follows the mistakes and failures of a young son who finally comes to his senses and realizes he has erred greatly.

 However, the most important character in the story is the loving father. In spite of the extreme disrespect and disdain present in the young son’s life, the father still loves him unconditionally. We see in the father, an attitude that does not force the son into submission, but patient grace and mercy awaiting the son’s return.

 God understands us. We come into this world rebellious and sinful. Often we do not realize just how hard hearted and stiff necked we can be. The young son in the story said and did some absolutely horrid things towards his father.

 Our loving Father patiently awaits our response to His love. He does not force Himself on us, but quietly reminds us of His concern.

 The son reunited with the father is a picture of salvation. A humble child faces the reality of his mistakes and asks for forgiveness. And of course the father forgives and a celebration ensues.

 Luke assures us that there are angels rejoicing in Heaven when someone repents and is saved. First Peter tells us that they are intrigued by the way that God has structured salvation, and are in awe of what He has done.

 So a question remains. Are you still feeding pigs?

**My Favorite Children’s Books No Longer In Print**



**Don’t forget to pray to God today—He didn’t forget to wake you up!**

1. The Boy Who Died From Eating All His Vegetables

2. A Children’s Guide to Hitchhiking

3. Curious George and the High Voltage Fence

4. See, Some Kittens Really Can Fly…Uh Oh!

5. Why Can’t Mr. Fork and Mr. Electrical Outlet Be Friends?

6. Freeway Dodge Ball: Official Kindergarten Rules

7. The Little Engine That Thought He Could—But Failed Miserably

8. The Invisible Child Eating Crocodiles That Live and Hide Absolutely Everywhere

10. Nuclear Launch Protocol and Command Codes for Single-Person Authorization via Non-secure Civilian Communication Systems

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

**The Only Way That Ice Hockey Will Ever Be Interesting to Me…**

Is if I pretend that both teams are fighting over the last OREO cookie left on Earth.