



The Giving Tree & The Prodigal Son

by Shel Silverstein

Luke 15:11-32

A lesson in generosity and forgiveness

Read the Story:

- How would you describe the boy?
- How would you describe the tree?
- How are the boy & tree different?

Read the Scripture:

- How would you describe the son?
- How would you describe the father?
- How are the son & father different?

Bring them together:

- In what ways are the boy and the prodigal son alike?
- How are the tree and the father alike?
- How is our Heavenly Father like the tree in the story or father of the prodigal son in the Bible?
- What does each story have to do with generosity?
- What does each story have to do with forgiveness?
- What other similarities do you see in the stories?

“For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!
And they began to celebrate.” ~ Luke 15:24

Use it in your life:

- What parts of your life can make you seem like the boy or prodigal son?
- What are some ways that you can work on being less selfish?
- What do you think that the father would say to you if you came running to him after you did something wrong?
- What are some ways that you would like to be more generous?
- Is there anyone in your life that you need to forgive?
- What can you learn about admitting your sins from these stories?

Saint Connection:

- St. Augustine lead a pretty wild life when he was young. His mom tried to teach him about the beautiful Catholic faith, but he didn't want to listen. When he was a little older, he finally realized how much God loved him, and he turned his life around. He Knew God's generosity and forgiveness.

Sacrament Connection:

- Take advantage of the Sacrament of Confession! God the Father is there to meet you with open arms, ready to welcome you with forgiveness, just like the father of the Prodigal Son. Accept his generosity and love.

Put it in Action:

- Forgive those who hurt you.
- Go to confession when you make mistakes.
- Be generous to everyone.
- Learn from others, like St. Augustine.