

“He was lost, and is found!”

∴THE PRODIGAL SON∴



The Children's Word is a weekly bulletin for Orthodox Christian young people. Copyright 2021 Alexandra Houck.
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The Children's Word

“Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Mark 10:14

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Lost and found



Have you ever been lost? Maybe you've been at the mall or at a fair. You wandered off, and then you looked around and you couldn't find your family! What a scary feeling it is to be lost, isn't it?

Today's Gospel story tells about a young man who wandered off. His family knew he was leaving, but they let him go anyway.

After a while, this young man realized he was lost. He knew he wanted to be with his father. He knew he wanted to be safe and loved. He knew he wanted to be back home.

If you've ever been lost, you might have had those same feelings. When you realize you're lost, you know you want to be with your family. You know you want to be safe and taken care of and loved. You know you want to be back home.

This Gospel story isn't just about a lost young man. It's about how *we* can get lost from our Lord sometimes. We can wander off. We can get lost, and we can know that scary feeling of being away from God. God always wants to find us. He wants us to come back home to Him. He is always ready to take care of us and love us. Let's always remember this special story of the Prodigal Son. If we ever make the mistake to wander away from God, we know we can be safe when we are back home with Him!

WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

- Faster
- Forgiveness
- Found
- Gospel
- Home
- James
- Lost
- Parable
- Prodigal Son

I E G O F A S T E R P T A J C
G C R O Y S C P P R T K X X Y
I X J H E P N F O K R T R W B
Q S F M T N A D X Q D X I U C
F C A O I P I Y B P B K A P W
P J M N R G R K A C E E T B V
U A W E A G D O X A U S J L N
W X R L M N I K G O S P E L J
N T S A U L Y V Z I E M O H Z
N O S O B E L A E G G G Y S C
N W F O T L C C J N K G V B D
P D Q N L G E P H V E U Q G N
Z Z O D Q M R T V D C S H W L
P V N P X S Q Y U C E K S E F
C X K T Y Y O T F H E S E I Q

SAINT JAMES THE FASTER GOD FORGIVES!

Sometimes you might

hear about somebody who seems like a good guy, but then he does something really wrong.



Saint James was like that. He spent 15 years living out in the wilderness in what is now Syria. Out there, he prayed to God and he grew closer and closer to Him. He was getting to be quite a holy man! But one day he did something really wrong, so wrong that he felt awful about it. He thought about it all the time. He wandered around for years, feeling sad and down.

After a while, Saint James met another holy man, who reminded James about God's mercy. He reminded him that God will forgive us when we do something wrong, even if it is something *really* wrong. Then, Saint James went to live all alone in a cave. He spent his time begging God to forgive him. He fasted a lot, too. (That's why we call him Saint James the Faster!) God showed Saint James that he forgave him, because soon he was able to do miracles when he asked God for help with things. With this, God showed James that he was listening to him.

When we think of Saint James, we know that God wants to forgive us too. We have to tell our Lord that we are sorry for what we have done.

We celebrate St. James on Thursday, March 4th (OC: March 17th).

WHAT'S IN AN ICON?

Here is another icon of Saint James the Faster.

Can you guess what he is doing with his hands up, looking to heaven?

