

STUDY AIDS

Story 35 - The Story of The Compassionate Father

A Bible Story from the Book of Luke



MORINGA MEDITATIONS

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A Guide to Using the Stories in the Open Bible Stories

The Reason For The Stories

The stories in the OBS tell about things that happened in the Bible. However, the stories are shorter than the Bible accounts, and the language is often easier to understand. The stories can help people learn about who God is and about what he has done. Also, each paragraph of a story has an image that can help people understand what happened in Bible times when clothing, houses, and culture were very different than they are today.

How to Use The Stories

- **Choose a story to read.** The stories will be easier to understand if you read the stories in order, beginning with the first story
- **Read the story.** In a group, one person may read the story aloud, or the people may take turns reading portions.
- **Look at the images.** Use the images to help you understand what happened in the time of the story. Try to identify the people in the images.
- **Refer to the Notes.** Read the study notes whenever there is a word or something else that you do not understand in the story.
- **Discuss the Questions.** Read each question and think about the answer. The first set of questions help you see what the story says. The next set of questions help you think about what the story means to you. If you are in a group, allow different people to offer answers to the questions. Look at the answer to each question and see how it is the same as your answer, or different from it.
- **Read the Summary.** Read the story summary at the end of the questions. Think about what you have learned about God in the story. If you are in a group, ask the group what they have learned from the story.

The Parts of The Stories

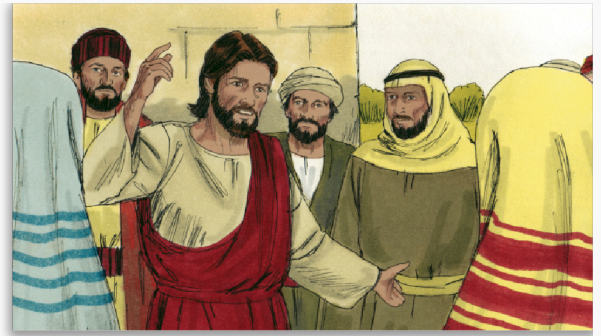
- The text of the stories
- The images in the stories
- The study notes in the stories
- The questions for the stories

Study Notes

Slide 1

One day, Jesus was teaching many people who had gathered to hear him. These people were **tax collectors** and also other people who did not try to obey the Law of Moses.

tax collectors - The tax collectors were Jews who collected taxes for the Romans. The Jews hated them for that and because they often collected higher taxes than the Romans required, keeping the difference for themselves.



Slide 2

Some **religious leaders** saw Jesus talking to these people as friends. So they began to tell each other that he was doing wrong. Jesus heard them talk, so he told them this story.

religious leaders - This refers to the Jewish religious officials.



Slide 3

There was a man who had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'Father, **I want my inheritance now!**' So the father **divided his property** between his two sons."

I want my inheritance now! - This was not normal. Sons received their inheritance when their fathers died.

divided his property - The father was extremely generous to divide his property while he was still alive. An older son always received twice as much inheritance as a younger son.

