



Luke 15:1-2

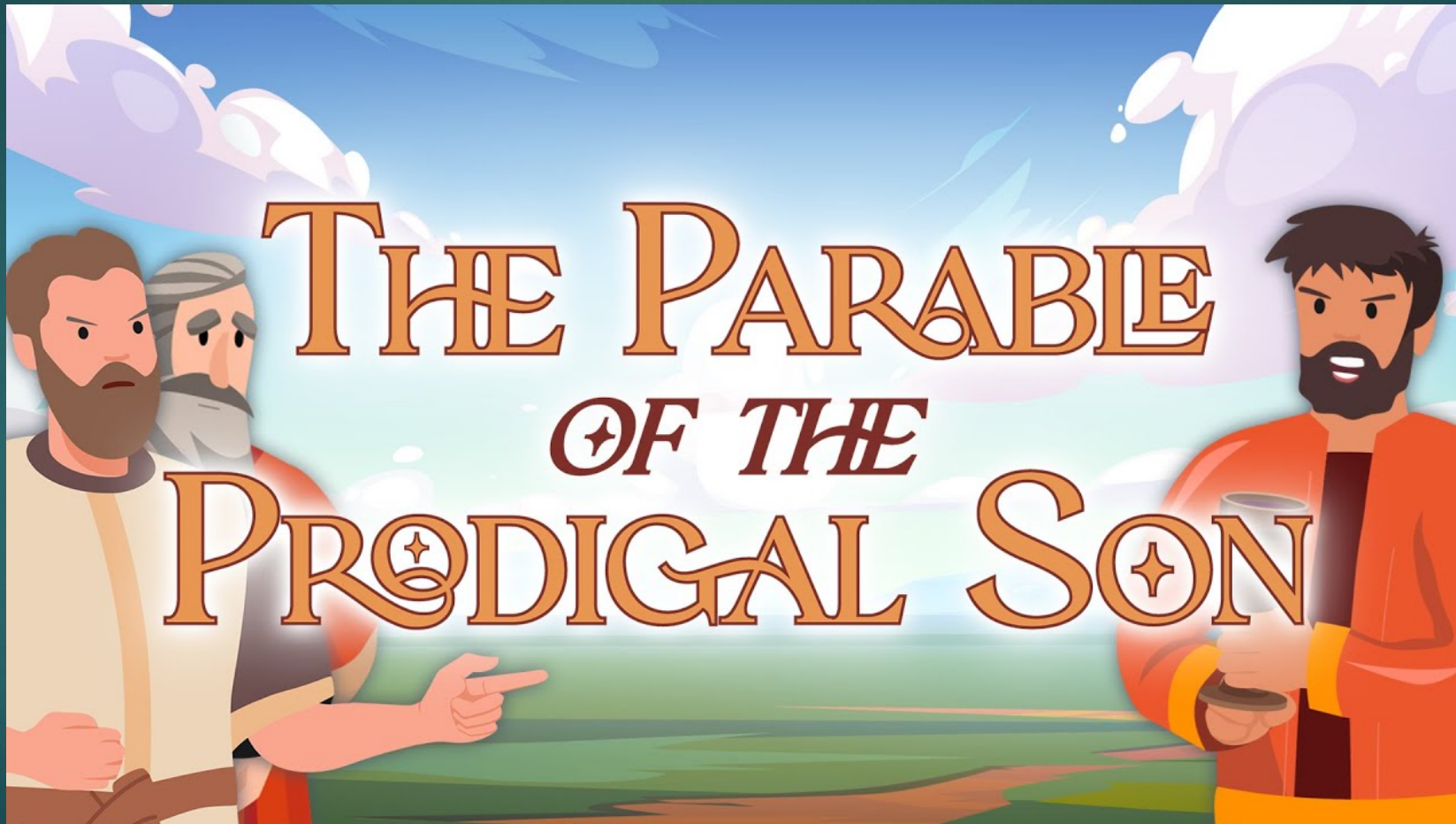
1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

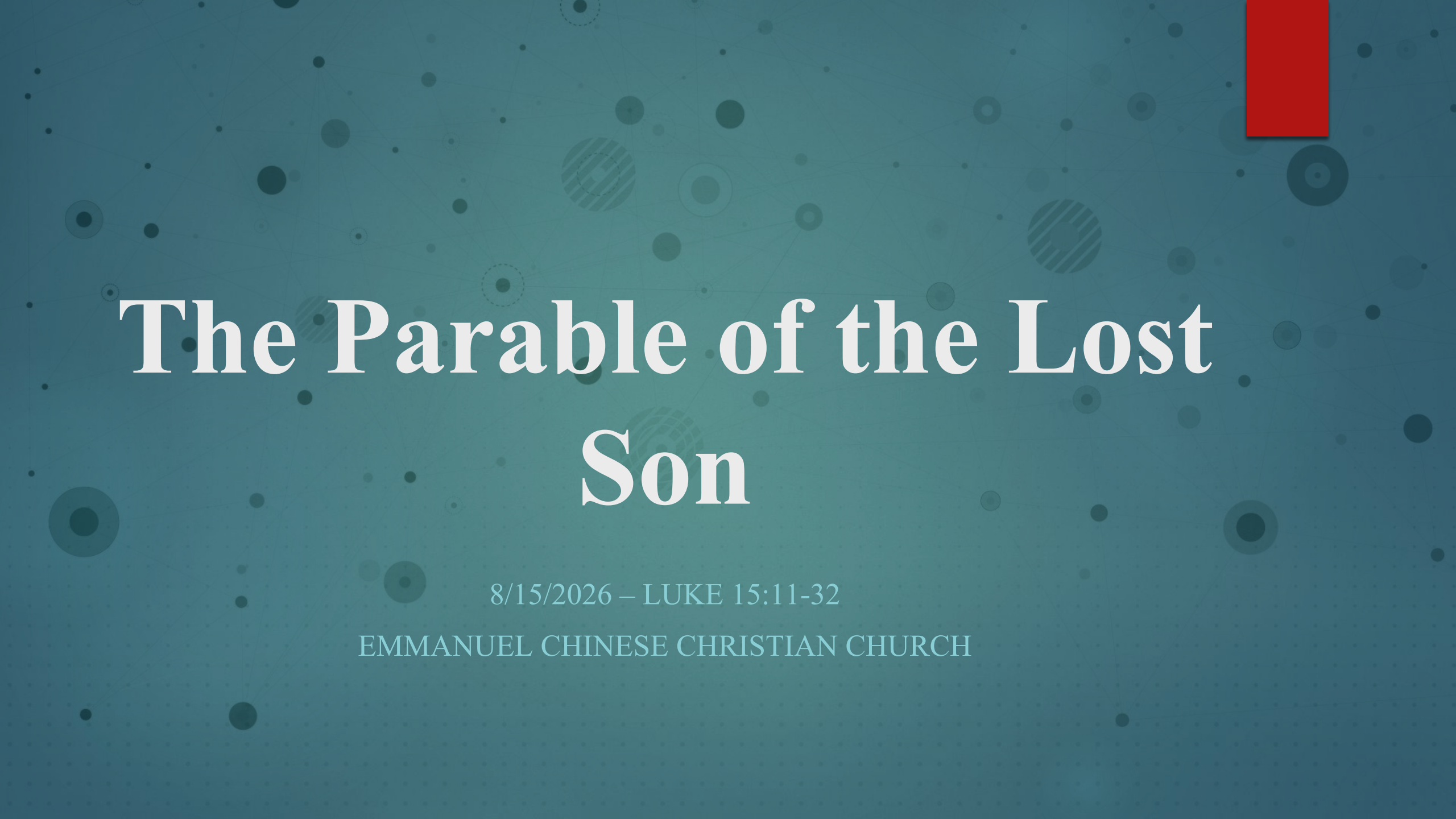




Lost in Plain Sight

Lost and Gone





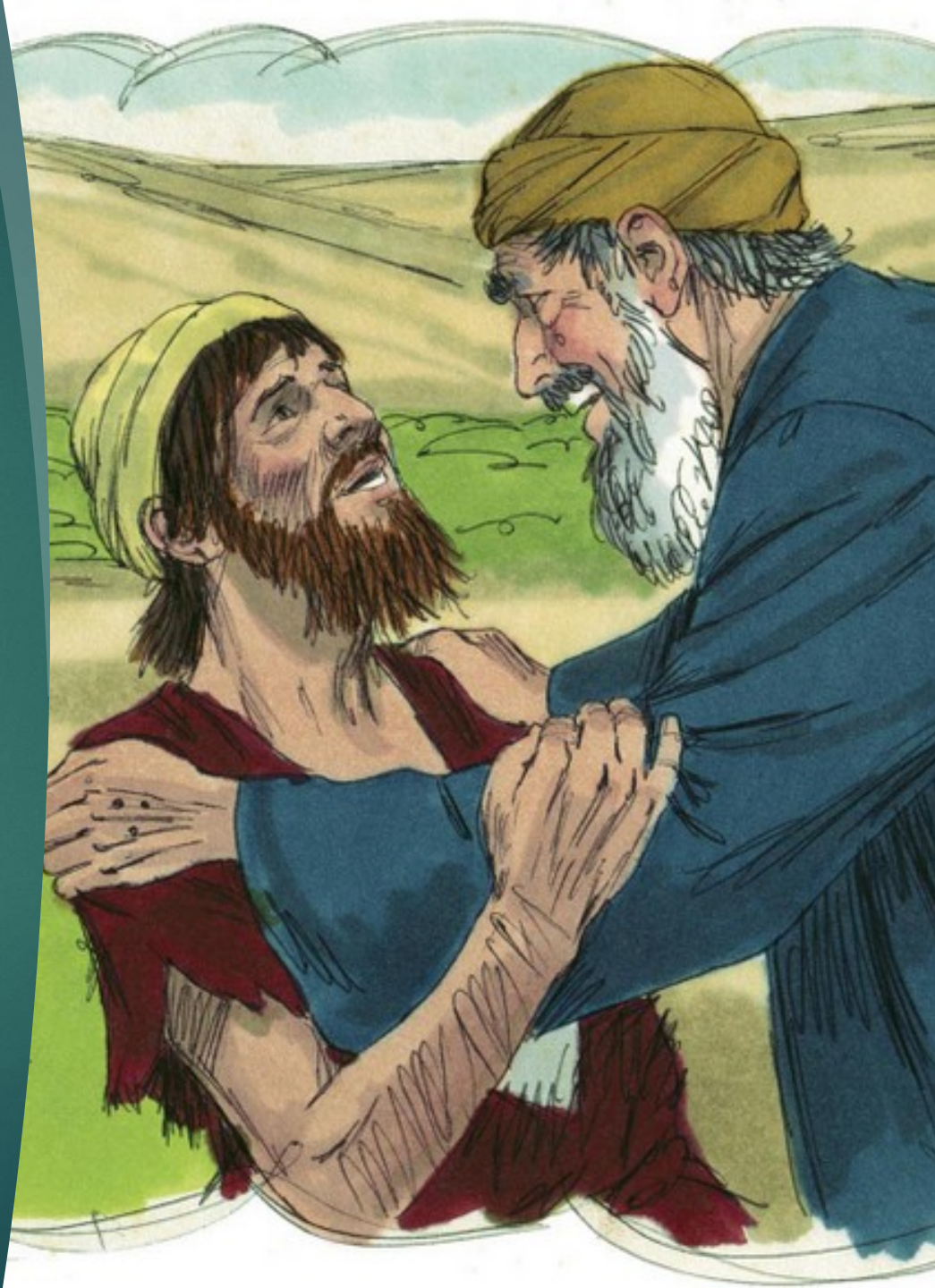
The Parable of the Lost Son

8/15/2026 – LUKE 15:11-32

EMMANUEL CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Three Characters

- ▶ The Lostness of the Younger Son
- ▶ The Self-Righteousness of the Older Son
- ▶ The Lovingness of the Father

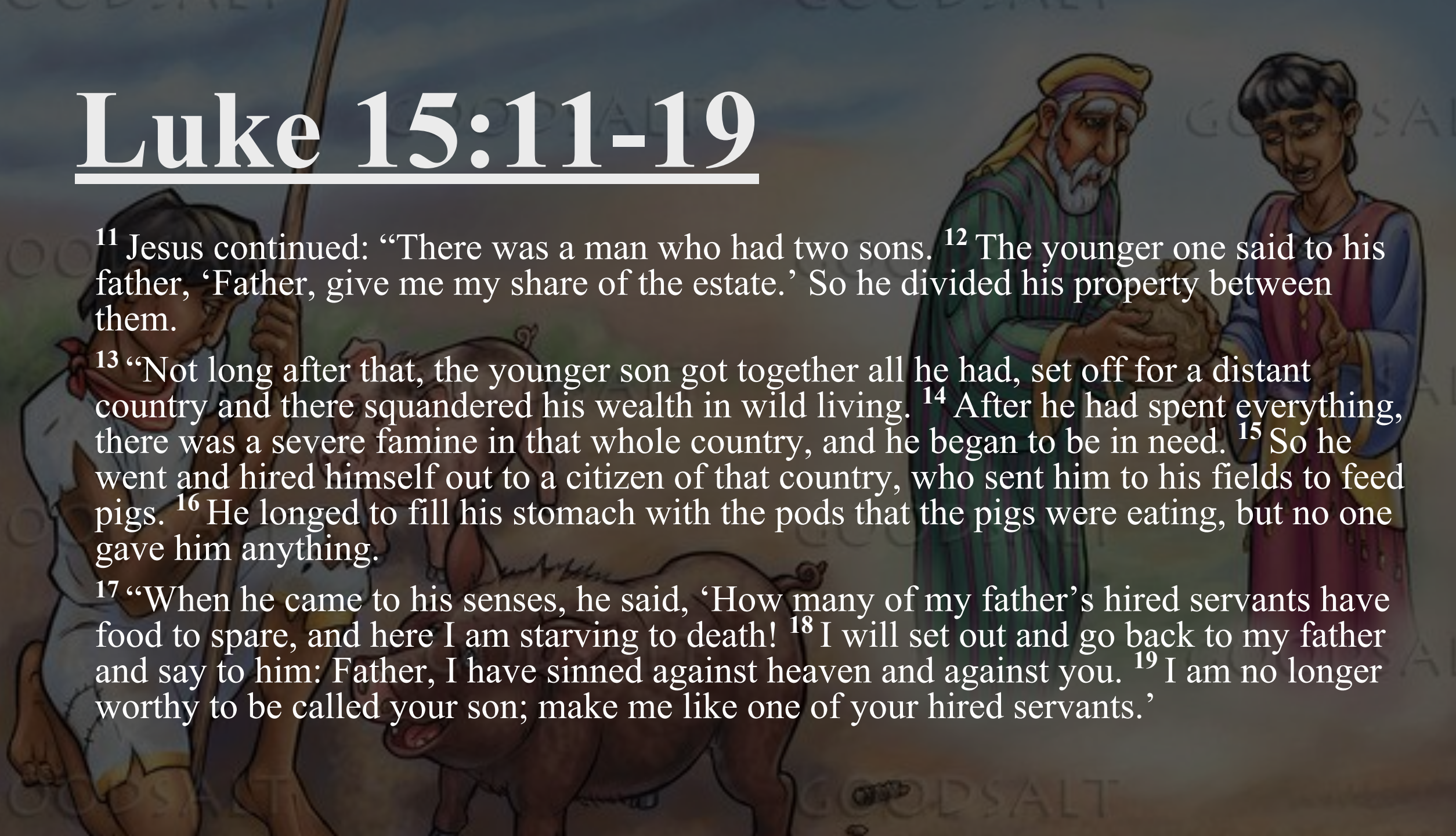


Luke 15:11-19

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.’



Luke 15:20-24

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.

Luke 15:25-32

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.’”

The Lostness of the Younger Son

You only live once

“You only live once” (YOLO) is a modern version of the Latin phrase *Carpe diem*, meaning “Seize the day.” Since you only live once, you need to live life to the fullest, even when that means embracing adverse behavioral choices that carry an inherent risk. May 1, 2026



Newport Academy

<https://www.newportacademy.com> › mental-health › yolo



YOLO, FOMO, & the Consequences of Teen Slang



About featured snippets



Feedback

Consequences of YOLO-ing

Researchers cataloged references to casual sex, drug use, and disregard for the consequences of dangerous behaviors. And they found that “alcohol and sex were associated with disregard for consequences most often in 2011, when the ‘you only live once’ motto was most popular.” Moreover, they concluded that “these findings are concerning because exposure to popular music is associated with increased risk behaviors for adolescents and young adults, who are the greatest consumers of music.”

Another recent study shows how the YOLO mindset promotes extreme drug use among young people in England. Published in the academic journal *Frontiers of Psychology*, the **2015 study** looked at young people’s consumption and perceptions of nitrous oxide. Researchers found that many adolescents had a “relaxed attitude toward the drug (*yolo, you only live once so why not*).” Therefore, they concluded, this lack of awareness of risk could increase consumption patterns, leaving youth more susceptible to side effects and risks.



What are the desires of
your heart?

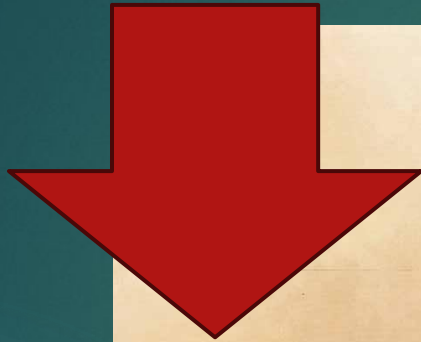


Where do you turn when all
the idols of your heart leave
you at rock bottom?



The Self-Righteousness of the Older Son

Why 2 Sons?



The Self-Righteous Pride is Revealed

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!’



Self-righteousness is allergic to
grace.

You need to either measure up or
earn it.

Ephesians 2:8-9



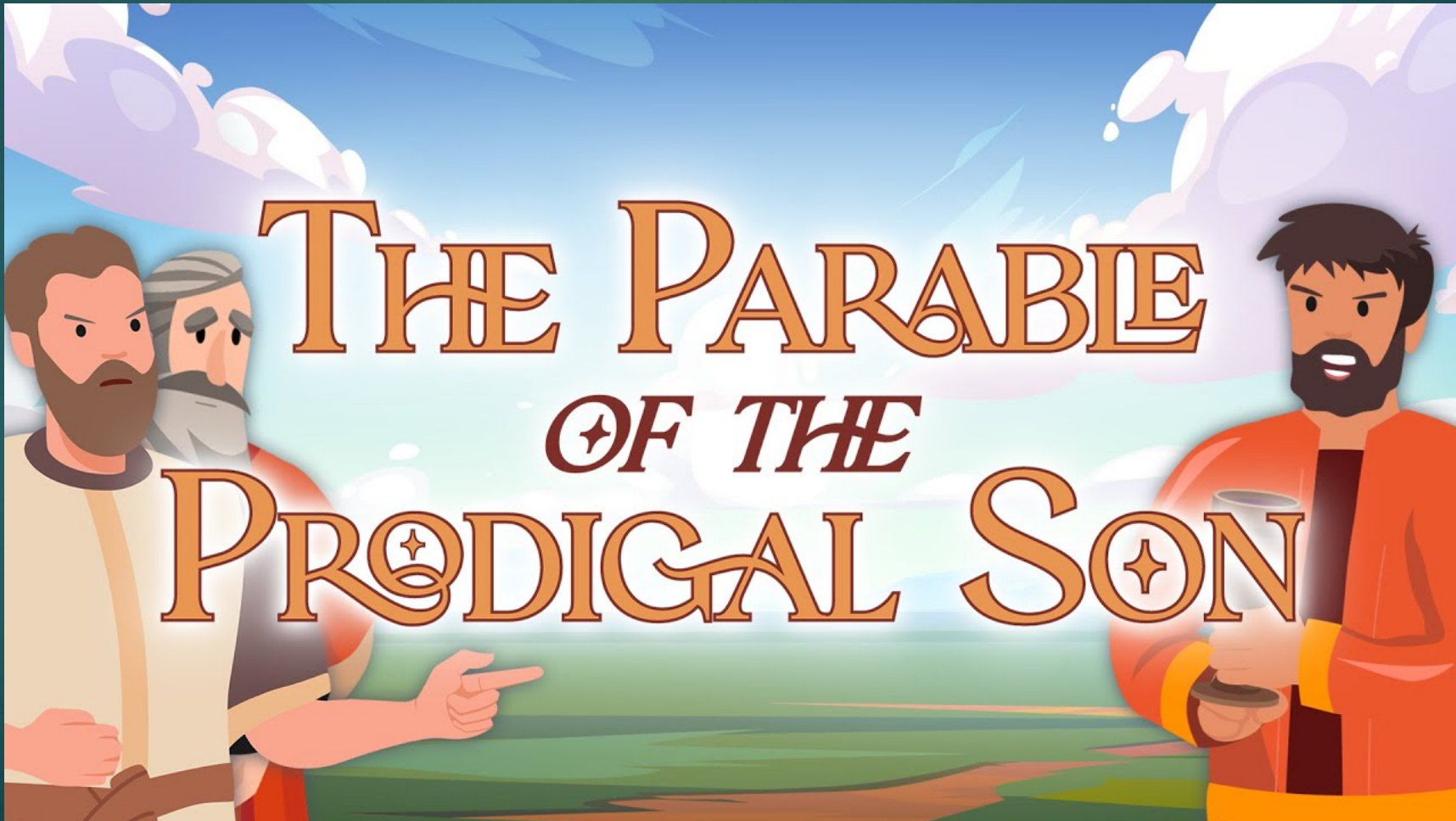
⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Galatians 2:16

¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

The Lovingness of the Father

The Father's Love and Free Will



The Extent of the Father's Love

- Younger Son
 - He is willing to wait
 - He doesn't need an explanation
 - He just enjoys the moment
 - He affirms his son's identity
 - He celebrates and absorbs the cost
- Older Son
 - He pursues

The Reality of God's Love

The Lost Son

²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

The Rest of Us

Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. ⁶ And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in

Conclusion

Benediction



24 “““The Lord bless you and keep you;
25 the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious
to you;
26 the Lord turn his face toward you and give you
peace.””