

**Religious Education & Positive Mental Health and Wellness:** end of September to Thanksgiving

May also be used during Advent or Lent as a Gratitude project.

**Grade 12 - Lesson 8**

<p><b>Grade 12 Who I AM ... Lesson 8 The PRODIGAL SON</b></p> <p><b>CHURCH AND CULTURE</b> - “gratitude is contagious”</p> <p>Who <b>I AM</b> Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me!</p>	
<p><b>Background</b>  <i>God promised Moses, “I will be with you.” God has made the same promise to each of us because He considers us His children. He loves YOU without conditions. His presence in YOUR life is constant. The beauty of our One God is His encouragement to celebrate life through unconditional forgiveness...blanketed by His unconditional love 😊</i></p>	
<p><b>Curriculum Expectation – Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, Overall and Specific Expectations from related Subjects</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations</u></b>  <b>CGE4e</b> - Sets appropriate goals and priorities in school, work and personal life  <b>CGE5f</b> - Exercises Christian leadership in the achievement of individual and group goals  <b>CGE7d</b> - Promotes the sacredness of life  <b>CGE7b</b> - Accepts accountability for one's own actions</p> <p><b><u>Religion Overall Expectation</u></b>                  Explain how Scripture can be used in analyzing and critiquing personal and social situations (Scripture 4<sup>th</sup> nugget)</p> <p><b><u>Religion Specific Expectation</u></b>                  Explain how the Scripture is God’s offer to transform lives (Scripture 4<sup>th</sup> nugget)</p>	<p><b>Learning Goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students will demonstrate an understanding of how Scripture can be used in analyzing and critiquing personal and social situations (Scripture 4<sup>th</sup> nugget)</li> <li>• Students will understand forgiveness through forgiving others and being forgiven.</li> <li>• Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Theological Virtue of Love as the core virtue of God.</li> </ul> <p><i>Success Criteria (possible suggestion)</i></p>

		<p><i>I will achieve success by demonstrating an understanding of love, forgiveness and using Scripture in personal or social situations through examining the characters of the parable of The Prodigal Son to witness the unique role each played in modeling love and forgiveness within a social situation.</i></p>
<p><b>Instructional Components</b></p>		
<p><b>Prior Knowledge and/or Skills</b>                  Forgiveness                  Luke 15:1-32</p> <p><b>Suggested Teacher Daily Reflection</b>                  Gus Lloyd 60 Second Reflections  <a href="http://guslloyd.com">http://guslloyd.com</a></p>	<p><b>Terminology</b>                  Prodigal                  Father / father</p> <p>Co-construct Success Criteria</p>	<p><b>Resources/Materials</b>                  Bibles/computers                  Prodigal Son Information                  Prodigal Son Teacher Notes                  Who <b>I AM</b> Exit Card                  Who <b>I AM</b> Conference Notes                  Who <b>I AM</b> The <b>U</b> in Jes<b>U</b>s</p>
<p><b>Prayer/Scripture Focus</b></p>		
<p>Loving God, the Great <b>I AM</b>, we thank you that you are always with us, helping us, guiding us, leading us and keeping us safe. We also thank you for the unconditional love that you give to us. We ask you to show us the special people in our lives to whom we should show our gratitude with our words and actions. Help us to be the best person we can be and to remember that, who we are makes a difference to others.</p>		
<p><b>Minds On</b></p>	<p><b>Approximately 10 Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment</b></p>
<p>Brainstorm the meaning to ‘prodigal’. Describe what a Prodigal Son or Daughter would look like or sound like in today’s modern society.</p> <p>As a class read Luke 15: 1-32 or watch the LEGO video of The Prodigal Son.  <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_FUlo3WngI">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F_FUlo3WngI</a></p> <p><b>Teacher Voice</b>                  “If you could be the father, the oldest son or the youngest son which would you be? Describe the Who <b>I AM</b> within your choice to your <b>elbow partner</b>. Does that</p>		<p>A brief conversation /question brings students to deeper learning of Who <b>I AM</b>...</p> <p>Project the image of</p>

<p>Who <b>I AM</b> description sound like you?"</p>	<p>Rembrandt's The Prodigal Son:  <a href="http://www.rembrandtpainting.net/rembrandt's_prodigal_son.html">www.rembrandtpainting.net/rembrandt's_prodigal_son.html</a></p>	
<p><b>Action</b></p>	<p><b>Approximately 40 Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment</b></p>
<p>Inquiry Learning – independent</p> <p><b>Teacher Voice</b>          “Rembrandt’s artwork connected to the parable of The Prodigal Son is deep in spiritual significance and faith meaning. From the size of the father’s hands to the darkness surrounding the older son, there is value and mystery in how Rembrandt portrayed the characters. Explore Rembrandt’s artwork connected to this parable further to reveal his interpretation of this infamous art. Pose a ‘wondering’ question and research the answer. Begin by re-reading the passage in Luke 15:1-32. Next search for images of Rembrandt’s The Prodigal Son. Examine his art closely. Research your question.” [See: <b>Teacher Notes</b>]</p>	<p>This lesson takes students to a higher level of thinking in connection to their personal Who <b>I AM</b> in relation to parable Who <b>I AM</b>.</p> <p>What is a parable?          A parable reveals and conceals a message or lesson.</p> <p><b><u>Oral Presentation:</u></b>  <b><u>anecdotal notes</u></b>  <b><u>digital recording (ipad)</u></b>  <b><u>Teacher/Student conference</u></b></p>	
<p><b>Consolidation</b></p>	<p><b>Approximately 20 Minutes</b></p>	<p><b>Assessment</b></p>
<p><b>Teacher Voice</b>          “What is the Who <b>I AM</b> story in The Prodigal Son?”</p> <p>“How does the parable of The Prodigal Son connect to the Who <b>I AM</b>... message ‘gratitude is contagious’?”</p>	<p>Students connect to learning goal through Exit Card question</p>	

“How were you treated or welcomed back during your Prodigal Son or Daughter moment?”

“How can positive mental health, spiritual wellness and the parable of The Prodigal Son be connected?”

Share the [See: **Who I AM Prodigal Son**] with students. Read together. Share student’s inquiry learning through oral presentation. Ask students in the audience for constructive criticism (1 positive comment followed 1 next step on post it).

**Exit Card**

What did you learn about yourself through the Who **I AM**... journey?

- Play this video while students reflect.  
<http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=7PKZG7NX>

**THE BLESSING**

The Blessing is a powerful experience if you partner students together and they take turns reading Numbers 6:24-26 to each other OR listen & watch the video <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OyXA9Rf-p3Y>

Thank students for participating in the Who **I AM** Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me! project.

Question Creation Chart

	What (event)	Where/When (situation)	Which (choice)	is
is (present)				
did/does (past)				
can (possibility)				
could (probability)				
will/would (predictability)				
might (imagination)				

Remembering and Understanding

Applying, Analyzing & Creating

Use the Q-Chart to help with question starters. (above)



*The Return of the Prodigal Son*  
**Exit Card**

**Final Notes**

Extend the learning...

**1. The morning after the welcome home party? Luke 15:1-32**

What happens the morning after the party? Continue the story....

*The younger son awakes and notices that he is home, the ring is on his finger, and all is back to normal. Before he gets out of bed, his father enters with a friendly “Good Morning my son”. The younger son shakes his head to try to remember the details of how he got there. The father reminds his son of the party and the welcome home celebration. He continues by explaining how the younger son had sold the property his father had given him. The father then reveals that he had sent a man with his own money to buy back the property. The father gives the land deed back to the son, completing the cycle of unconditional love, forgiveness and celebration of love.*

Paying attention to four A’s: Admit, Apologize, Amend and Absolve, write an ending to the parable of the Prodigal Son that reflects the next morning and the interaction between father and both of his sons.

2. Watch the video of the Desiderata <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDHoflDhAOo>  
How can the powerful message of the Desiderata be connected to the passionate message of 'gratitude is contagious' found in the Who **I AM** Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me! project?
3. Choral Read the poem *Who I AM... Through The U IN JESUS* [See: **Who I AM...Through The U In Jesus**]
4. Watch the YouTube video of '*Stand By Me*' Bono/Bruce Springsteen. How are we called to stand by each other through our Christian faith? Where can you see the 'stand by me' thinking in the Parable Story?

## The Prodigal Son Luke 15:1-32

### **Background**

The prodigal son's request for his share of inheritance was a statement that he wished his father dead. Early Jewish law stated that the firstborn son would inherit twice as much as any other heir. A father was expected to retain total control of his property as long as he was alive. For the father in Luke's Gospel to give his younger son an early inheritance was an act of extreme generosity. If a father did decide to give his property and money to a son prior to his death, Jewish law also forbade the son from selling the property while his father was still alive.

### **Rembrandt's Prodigal Son**

One of the best known renditions of the Gospel story of the Prodigal Son is the painting by Dutch artist, Rembrandt van Rijn. He was the son of a Dutch Reformed father and a Catholic mother. Religious themes constitute nearly a third of his work. Rembrandt created *The Return of the Prodigal Son* near the end of his life, at a time when he was living near poverty. The painting became the inspiration for a book by Dutch theologian, Fr. Henri Nouwen.

### **Inspiration**

In the parable of the Prodigal Son, it's all about what the father did. He loved his child. He loved him even while he was far away. He loved him even while he was straying in a sinful lifestyle. The father's unconditional love was his gift to the son - initially the son rejected it. Upon the son's return, the gift he gave his father was an open heart to receive the unconditional love that had always been available.

When we don't use our gifts or talents that God has blessed us with, we are like the son who ran away and wasted all his money. We are like the older son when we are envious of how God treats other people. God is the father in this story. He lets the younger son make his own choices. He loves him regardless of his actions or his choices. God desires for His son to return home and be sorry. He patiently waits ready to forgive.

## Rembrandt's *The Return of the Prodigal Son* ~ Teacher Notes

1. The yellow brownish colour of the son's clothing in contrast to the rich vibrant red of his father's garments (the son's rags represent the great misery he has seen)
2. Compassionate embrace (inner brokenness, surrounded by outward compassion)
3. The younger son (represents the rebellious nature within each of us)
4. The father touching the son (everlasting blessing, unconditional love, eternal forgiveness)
5. The son resting his head against his father's chest / heart (everlasting peace)
6. Leaving home (ignoring the truth)
7. The son's head is shaven (he is a prisoner)
8. Cloak of the father (represents dignity, status)
9. Son's left foot is scarred, right foot broken sandal (suffering, misery)
10. The son's short sword (one last piece of dignity, his badge of nobility)
11. Seated man (represents sinners)
12. Tall standing man (the older brother)
13. Light on the tall standing man - elder son - is cold, light on the father is luminous warmth
14. Father and son (God / humanity, compassion / misery, complete circle of love)
15. Father's face (represents both mother and father)
16. The father's hands (one stronger, larger and open represents the strength of the father, the other hand represents the compassion, gentleness of a motherly love)
17. The father's open red cloak (inviting a warm welcoming place to rest)

**Who I AM – Exit Card**

What did you learn about yourself through the Who **I AM**... journey?

**Who I AM...** Exit Card

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**Who I AM...** Exit Card

**The Prodigal Son Inquiry Learning**

Three blessings of your presentation:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

One talent to develop for the next time:

A.

**Who I AM...** Teacher/Student Conference

**The Prodigal Son Inquiry Learning**

Three blessings of your presentation:

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A.

**Who I AM...** Teacher/Student Conference

## Who I AM...Through The U in JesUs

Before U were thought of or time had begun,  
God stuck U in the name of His Son.  
Each time U pray, you'll see it is true,  
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.  
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
For U, He was born; that's why He came.  
His great love for U is the reason He died.  
It even takes U to spell crUcified.  
Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand  
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?  
The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew,  
and this word resurrection is spelled with a U.  
When JesUs left earth at His upward ascension,  
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.  
"Go into the world and tell them it's true  
That I love them all – Just like I love U."  
So many great people are spelled with a U,  
They have a right to know JesUs too.