

Tender Heart High School, Sector 33 B Chandigarh

Subject: English Literature

Class: V

Chapter: 9 “The Prodigal Son”

Good morning students,

Today let us read and understand “The Prodigal Son” Chapter -9 in your English Reader.

This passage is a retelling of **The Parable of the Prodigal Son**, a story that Jesus told to illustrate God's love and forgiveness. Here's a breakdown and explanation of the key elements in the story:

1. The Father and His Two Sons

- The father in the parable represents God. He has two sons, and the younger one asks for his share of the inheritance. This request is unusual and disrespectful because it implies the son wishes for his father's death to receive his portion early.
- Despite the disrespect, the father grants the request, showing his patience and love.

2. The Younger Son's Journey and Fall

- The younger son leaves home and squanders his wealth in reckless living. He spends money on luxuries, parties, and "new friends" who abandon him when the money runs out.
- This represents humanity's tendency to stray from God, pursue selfish desires, and misuse the blessings given to them.
- Eventually, the son becomes destitute, even eating the food meant for animals. This marks the lowest point in his life, symbolizing how people can hit rock bottom when they live without God.

3. The Younger Son's Realization and Repentance

- The son realizes his mistakes and regrets his arrogance. He decides to return home, not as a son but as a servant, showing his humility and repentance. He acknowledges his wrongs and hopes for mercy.
- This reflects the process of repentance: recognizing one's sins, feeling sorrow, and returning to God in humility.

4. The Father's Unconditional Love and Forgiveness

- The father eagerly waits for his son's return, scanning the horizon daily. This demonstrates God's constant love and readiness to forgive.
- When the father sees his son from a distance, he runs to embrace him—a sign of deep compassion. Despite the son's wrongdoings, the father forgives him immediately and restores him as a beloved son, not a servant.
- The father orders a grand celebration, showing that God rejoices when someone who has strayed comes back to Him.

The Message of the Parable

- The parable emphasizes God's unconditional love and forgiveness. No matter how far someone has strayed, they are always welcome back if they repent. The father's love mirrors God's boundless mercy.
- It also serves as a reminder that material wealth and pleasure cannot bring true happiness. It is only in returning to God that people find true fulfillment and peace.

This story teaches about repentance, forgiveness, and the deep love God has for all people, regardless of their past mistakes.