



THE REBEL CHILD

Slide 1

Do you remember that I promised **Slide 2** you the story of a rebellious child who turned his back on his dad?

After **Slide 3** much difficulty, he decides **Slide 4** to come back, but **Slide 5** will his father welcome him? **Slide 6** Will he accept him despite all the suffering he caused him? Will he forgive him? This is what we're going to see now. Françoise will tell us this story, it's a parable of Jesus; you will find it in **Slide 7** chapter 15 of the **Slide 8** Gospel of Luke.

Slide 9 LOVE OF THE FATHER

Slide 10 This rich man has two sons. One day, the youngest **Slide 11** hears about a distant land:

Slide 12 - I'm tired of staying here. I am going to leave! He said to his father, I need money, a lot of money, **Slide 13** now give me my share of the inheritance, I'm not gonna wait until you're dead!

Slide 14 - But, my son, what you are saying is serious, you cannot do that.

Slide 15 - My decision is made, you are not going to hold me back; no one will change my mind!

Slide 16 - Don't you have everything you need here; everything is at your disposal.

Slide 17 - No need to insist, give me my share, **Slide 18** I want to be free, do what I want!

Slide 19 One morning, his head held high, he leaves the house, the inheritance in his pocket. **Slide 20** He happily leaves the house, full of plans for the future! **Slide 21** His father stays on the doorstep for a long time, hoping for a look, a goodbye. **Slide 22** When the young disappears behind the hills; the father comes back home with a heavy step, his back bent over, crushed with pain and sadness. - **Slide 23** Today I lost my son. Will I see him again?

Every day, **Slide 24** he fixes the horizon. But **Slide 25** the young man is far away and so busy. **Slide 26** He undertakes great journeys. **Slide 27** He finds dozens of new friends.

Slide 28 He drinks, dances, **Slide 29** has fun, gets drunk and gets dizzy night and day:

Slide 30 - Life is ahead of us, my friends, enjoy it and have fun, he often repeats.

Slide 31 Like in a whirlwind, **Slide 32** days, months and years fly by at high speed, **Slide 33** money as well!

Slide 34 One day, he reaches into his right pocket, and finds nothing! Nothing more in the left pocket! He shakes his wallet but **Slide 35** nothing at all:

Slide 36 - Not a penny! He said to himself very surprised, but that's not possible!

Slide 37 He's looking for his friends, but they're all gone!

Slide 38 He sells what he has left, his beautiful clothes, his jewelry, even his father's gold ring ... and with this money, **Slide 39** he continues to party!

Slide 40 Sometime later, he wakes up shivering:

Slide 41 - It's too cold now to sleep outside and it's been two days **Slide 42** since I didn't eat anything. Someone's gonna give me a piece of bread and a piece of cheese! He knocks on doors, **Slide 43** but they remain closed. He didn't realise that all these years he spent celebrating, **Slide 44** famine had taken hold in the country. He is now looking for work:

Slide 45 - Do you want to keep my pigs? said a peasant to him.

Slide 46 - No way! It's worse than anything, he told himself! ... But in reality, **Slide 47** I have no choice; **Slide 48** if at least I could eat what his pigs eat!

Slide 49 He is ragged, muddy, extremely thin.

Slide 50 But what happened to this handsome rich young man, resplendent with health and life? What did he become? **Slide 51** He begins to think; memories of his childhood come back to him ... fatherly home, moments of joy, of sharing, **Slide 52** the love of his father, the table laden with delicious food, and ...his departure, **Slide 53** his father's sad look:

- My father ... What happened to my father? He thinks, it's been so long since I left home! He regrets his contempt, his arrogance, his folly:

- At my father's house, **Slide 54** even the workers have to eat as much as they want and I, here, I'm going to starve. **Slide 55** I want to go back home. But will he accept to receive me after all the harm I did to him? He must be very angry. I made him suffer so much. I will tell him the truth, I'll tell him: **Slide 56**

- Daddy! I have done wrong, I have sinned; I don't deserve to be your son anymore but, I beg you, **Slide 57** accept me as a servant. **Slide 58** Will he forgive me?

Slide 59 The young man sets out painfully. He left rich and happy, he comes back miserable and ashamed. He sees familiar places again; emotion seizes him, tears flow. The closer he gets, the more he slows down, he is so ashamed, he imagines himself in front of his father. Suddenly **Slide 60** he sees someone running towards him:

Slide 61 - My son! My son! Finally you're here! **Slide 62** I saw you from afar, I ran up, I've been waiting for you for so long time!

Slide 63 He hugs him and kisses him.

The young man is in tears.

Slide 64 - Dad! Dad! I have sinned against God and against you. Don't call me your son anymore, I don't deserve it, but if you will forgive me, I will be one of your servants:

Slide 65 - No! You are not a servant but you are my son. For me, all these years, you were lost, as if dead, and now there you are! **Slide 66** Finally, I found you!

All the servants are gathered:

Slide 67 - My son is back! Quickly prepare the most beautiful clothes, put a ring on his finger because he's still my son. He walked barefoot like slaves, but give him shoes because now he's a free man.

Slide 68 - Prepare a big feast! We will rejoice because my son who was dead has come back to life. He was lost and today I found it. **Slide 69** This is my greatest joy; I want to share it with you!

Slide 70 1, 2 3, 4 AND YOU AND ME!

*Do you understand why Jesus told this parable? He wants to show us **Slide 71** the love of God for each of us, for you **Slide 72** and for me. He is ready to receive and forgive us. Did you notice how the son came back to his father? **Slide 73** He was no longer the proud and arrogant young man... No, it was over. **Slide 74** He just told the truth and he asked for forgiveness.*

*When you'll be alone, still, think about what Jesus tells us in this parable. If you told God, your Father, what is in your heart, if you asked for forgiveness, **Slide 75** he would welcome you as his child.*

Slide 76 4, 3, 2, 1 AND WE PARENTS!

Slide 77 A little child easily trusts his or her parents and God but a bigger one, a teenager, may have more difficulty doing this. In this parable, Jesus highlights the way to come to God, his welcome and the forgiveness he reserves for us. Make sure your children have understood it well. **Slide 78** Let them tell or act out the story; you will share with them enriching moments.

Maybe you are disappointed because one of your children is opposed to God and to yourself? Take heart, **Slide 79** it was the memory of his father's love that prompted the young man to repent and come back. Continue to pray so that they question themselves and take the path of the return to God.

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