

The Lion King

Inspiration ...

Watch the whole film if you can. If you can't, here is the link to the trailer:

 https://www.imdb.com/video/vi3764362265/?playlistId=tt0110357?ref_ext_shr_lnk



According to IMDb as of Sept 2022 the certificate for this film is: **Animation U, Live action PG**

Biblical Reference:

Luke 15:24

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

(New International Version)



Prayer

*Loving Heavenly Father, we are
Your children and yet we take your
gifts and love for granted.
Please help us to remember we are
Your children and to recognise that
You provide for us. Amen*

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Prodigal Son

Link exploration:

The Prodigal Son was impatient for his inheritance. The Prodigal Son and Simba both eagerly anticipated their inheritance which they felt was owed to them, both were tired of being controlled, they felt trapped and looked for a way out. Simba ran away when his inheritance would have been due to him as he felt that it was his fault his father had died. The Prodigal Son received his inheritance and spent it all in wasteful ways. Both though had a reminder to 'remember who you are'. <https://youtu.be/lpxEWaScakM> They realised that they had made bad decisions, so both Simba and the Prodigal Son eventually return home to a great welcome.

The Prodigal Son and The Lion King are set in family contexts. I wonder if you could visualise both of the fathers in these stories as God. In the parable (a simple story with a spiritual meaning) of the Prodigal Son the father runs out to greet his son returning home: he ran, of course he did, that makes perfect sense to us. In the first century, however, a Middle Eastern man would never run. If he ran, he would have to show his bare legs as he raised his tunic to enable him to run, this would be humiliating and shameful. In the Prodigal Son parable, the father (God) totally humiliated himself to welcome the son home. In The Lion King it is Mufasa (God) that says 'you have forgotten me – you have forgotten who you are'. We must not forget who we are in Christ: we are God's children; we were made just as God intended; he loves us just the way we are.

Personal challenge

- What gifts from God do you take for granted, have misused or see as a right rather than a gift?
- Do you feel controlled or trapped? I wonder if there is a different way to think about these feelings that might express the gift of love and care from others to you?
- Do you feel close to your heavenly Father?
- Could you write on a post-it note that you are loved, cherished, or accepted for who you are by God, and place it where you will see it each day.

