

“The Prodigal Son” Story

One time Jesus told a story to his apostles and said, "A man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me my share of the property.' So the father divided the property between his two sons. Then the younger son gathered up all that was his and traveled far away to another country. There he wasted his money in foolish living. After he had spent everything, a time came when there was no food anywhere in the country, and the son was poor and hungry.

So he got a job with one of the townspeople there who sent the son into the fields to feed pigs. The son was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he realized what he was doing, he thought, 'All of my father's servants have plenty of food. But I am here, almost dying with hunger. I will leave and return to my father and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son, but let me be like one of your servants."' So the son left and went to his father.

"While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him and hugged and kissed him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'¹ But the father said to his servants, 'Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get our fat calf and kill it so we can have a feast and celebrate. My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!' So they began to celebrate.

"The older son was in the field, and as he came closer to the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. So he called to one of the servants and asked what all this meant. The servant said, 'Your brother has come back, and your father killed the fat calf, because your

brother came home safely.' The older son was angry and would not go in to the feast. So his father went out and begged him to come in.

But the older son said to his father, 'I have served you like a slave for many years and have always obeyed your commands. But you never gave me even a young goat to have at a feast with my friends. But your other son, who wasted all your money, comes home, and you kill the fat calf for him!' The father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. We had to celebrate and be happy because y our brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.'

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“The Prodigal Son” Puppet Script

A young boy came to his father one day
And said to his dad, “I’m going away.
Give me the money that’s rightfully mine.
I know how to spend it, I’m sure I’ll do fine.”

The son took the money and went on his way.
He was full of ideas for fun and for play.
Oh, the things he would do and the people he’d meet!
A life with no worries just couldn’t be beat!

All of these thoughts so filled up his mind
That he hardly remembered the dad left behind.

At first he did well, for he knew how to spend.
He partied at night with a lot of his friends.
He never would work, for he slept all day long.
He lived for excitement and parties and song!

When his money ran out one cold, rainy day,
He went to his friends but they turned him away.
At last he found work sadly feeding some swine.
He said, “How I miss that dear father of mine!”

“My father’s servants have plenty to eat
while I’m truly starving with no bread or meat.
I’ll go to my father, I’ll try to be strong.
I’ll beg for forgiveness. I’ll say, ‘I was wrong.’”

But while he was still a long way far out,
His father saw him and ran with a shout.
He hugged him and kissed him; his heart filled with joy
As he welcomed him back, his dearest lost boy!

The son said, "Oh, father, I've sinned against you.
I feel so awful, I'm ashamed; it is true.
I don't deserve to be called your dear son
Make me a servant, your errands I'll run."

The father cried out, "Let us have a big feast
Let's kill a new calf that is really the least
Yes, get him a robe and a ring that is round
The son that I love who was lost now is found!"

Like the son in the story, sometimes we do wrong,
And the road back to God seems so far and so long.
But just as the father ran to his dear boy
God runs to us and forgives us with joy!



“Peace Like a River” Song

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul!

I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river
I've got peace like a river in my soul!

I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul!

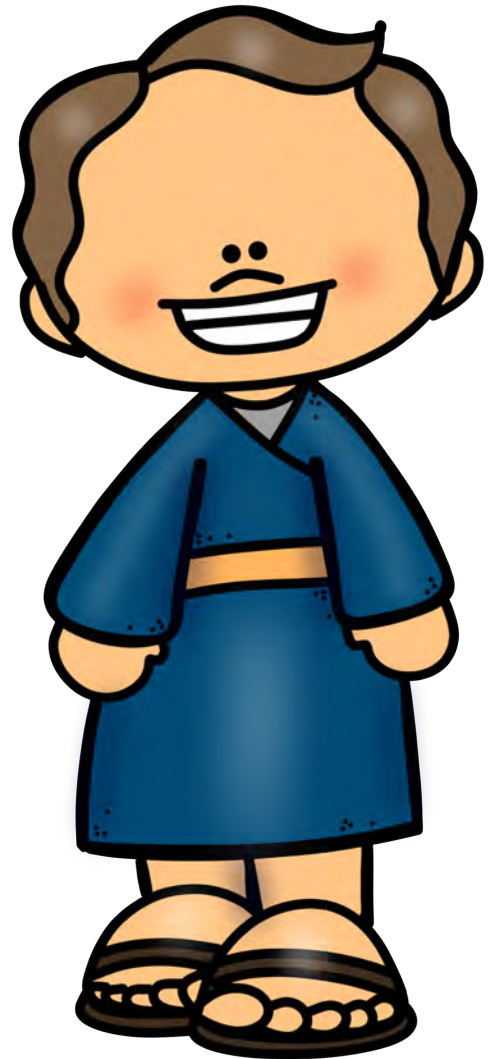
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul!

I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean in my soul!

I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean
I've got love like an ocean in my soul!

I've got peace like a river
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got love like an ocean in my soul!

I've got peace like a river
I've got joy like a fountain
I've got love like an ocean in my soul!



The Prodigal Son

Memory Verse

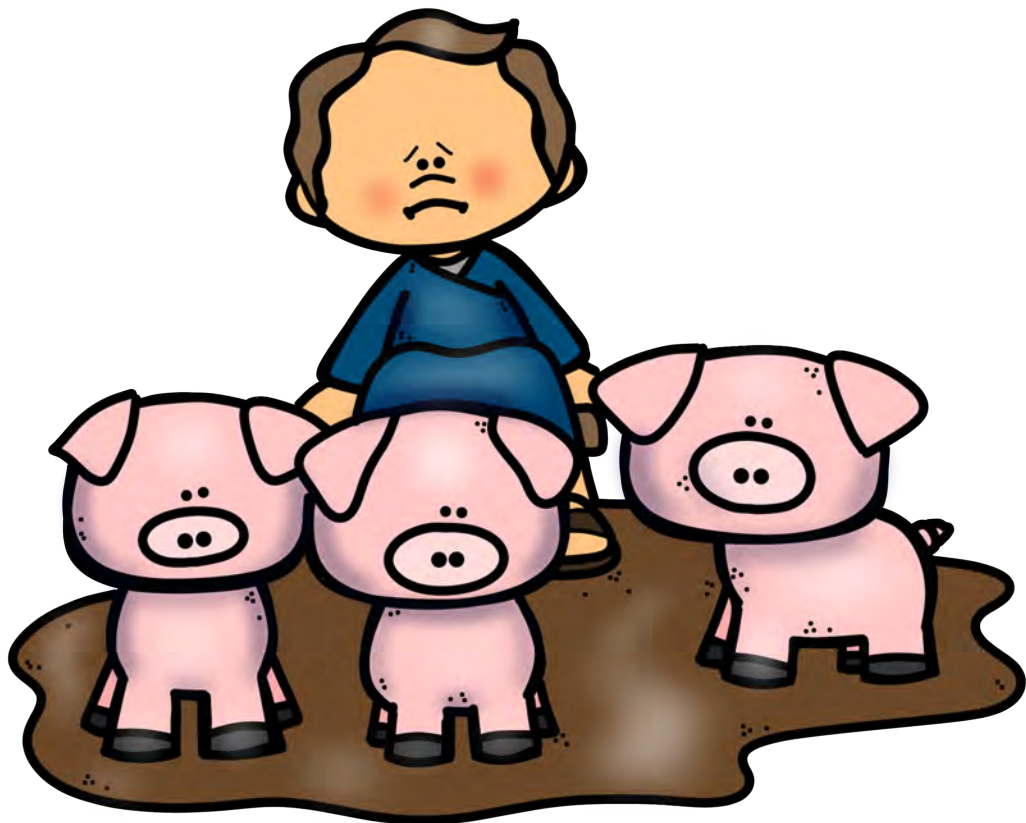


“The father said,
‘For this son of mine was dead
and is alive again;
he was lost and now is found.’”
Luke 15:24

The Prodigal Son

Application Questions

1. What did the younger son want from his father? (his share of the property, money, inheritance)
2. When he got it, what were some of the things he did? (traveled to a faraway country, wasted the money on foolish living)
3. After he had spent everything, what happened? (he was poor and hungry, he got a job feeding pigs)
4. What did he eat? (some of the pig's food)
5. What does he then decide to do? (go home)
6. What does the father do when he sees the son on the road? (runs to meet him, hugs him, kisses him)
7. What did the father tell the servant to do for his son? (bring him clothes, a ring, sandals, kill a calf for a feast in his honor)
8. What does the father say about his son? ("He was dead, but now is alive", "He was lost, but now he is found")
9. What was wrong with the older brother? (he was jealous)
10. What lessons can we learn from the younger son?
11. What lessons can we learn from the older son?



“Prodigal Son” Craft and Activity Ideas



Yummy pig cupcakes with marshmallow noses!

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/34762228347335802/>



Easy and adorable pig with clothespin legs!

<https://www.facebook.com/231270687078248/post/s/ready-for-a-prodigal-son-messy-church-this-afternoon-at-3pm/819874491551195/>



Love this cute paper plate pig! You could just use markers if you don't have tissue paper!

<https://lettheirlightshine.com/category/prodigal-son/>



Love this snack idea! Make chex mix look like pig food!!!

<https://www.biblefunforkids.com/2015/09/the-prodigal-son.html>



This is another super easy version of “pig food” with a popcorn base! Love it!!!

<http://bibleschoolteachers.blogspot.com/2011/01/pig-food.html>



What a great idea! Draw a picture of all the things the son was given when he returned home!!!

<http://childrensbiblelessons.blogspot.com/2015/03/lesson-prodigal-son.html?m=1>

The Parable of the Prodigal Son



SMH