

ACTIVITY TIME!!!

Activity

Act out the parable. There are three characters—the younger son, the father, and the older son—and six scenes.

- The younger son asks the father for his part of their family's money. The father gives it to him, and the son leaves.
- The younger son asks the father for his part of their family's money. The father gives it to him, and the son leaves.
- The younger son travels and spends his money recklessly.
- The son runs out of money. The only job he can find is caring for pigs. He is hungry and wants to eat the pigs' food.
- The son realizes his mistake. He decides to beg his father to take him back as a servant.
- The son returns, and the father rejoices.
- The older son tells his father he is angry about the acceptance of the younger son.

This story has been given many different titles. After acting it out, come up with your own title for it. Maybe you've heard this story referred to as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Prodigal means someone who wastes money. What if the story was named after someone else, all the characters, or events that happened in it? We could call it "The Merciful Father." We could focus on the younger son's choices instead of wastefulness and call it "The Repentant Son." Perhaps "The Father and Two Sons."

Now imagine if the parable took place today. What would it be like? What would the son ask for? His college savings? Part of his parent's business? Where would he travel to, and what would he spend the money on? What kind of job would he get once he ran out of money? When he returned, how would the parent(s) celebrate? Would another grown-up come and welcome him back home as well? What if the child was a daughter instead, or there were more siblings?

After discussing these questions and others you think of, act out a modern version of the story. Introduce it with a new title.

Alternate Activity

We are in the season of Lent, which means we are preparing ourselves to celebrate Easter! One way we prepare ourselves is by remembering how Jesus' death and resurrection on Easter bring us God's grace.

This story tells us a beautiful example of recognizing and repairing relationships. First, let's act out the story together. The story begins with the son telling the father he wanted money to go and live on his own. Pretend to be the son, saying he wants to leave. How would the father feel? Next, the son travels far away. Let's walk around the room like we are traveling on a long journey. How do you feel when you go on a trip?

Continue narrating the story and acting it out in unison, using the activity scenes above or the story booklet if they are helpful.

How did the father react when the son came back? He was overjoyed! Wonder together about how the other characters were feeling throughout the story. What can we learn from this story about ourselves? Our family? God?