

REFERENCES: LUKE 15:11-22; CHRIST'S OBJECT LESSONS, PP. 198-211.

The Naughty Son

Have you ever disobeyed your parents? How did you feel about what you had done? Did you wonder if they would still love you?

Jesus told a story about a son who didn't like his father's rules, so he decided to leave home. He went to his father and asked for money. His father didn't want him to go away,

but the son was determined to go. So the father gave him money, and the son left home to live the way *he* wanted to live.

At first the boy had lots of money, and he soon made a lot of new friends. He paid for parties for all his friends. But when he had spent all his money, his friends left him. They weren't his friends anymore. Without money or friends, the boy had no place to stay and no food to eat.



Memory Verse

“You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive.”

PSALM 86:5, NKJV.

The Message

God is always ready to forgive us.

Soon he was hungry, so he began to look for a job. But the only job he could find was on a pig farm. It was a horrible job! The pigs were filthy and smelly, and their food was even worse. But the boy was so hungry, he even thought about eating the pigs' food!

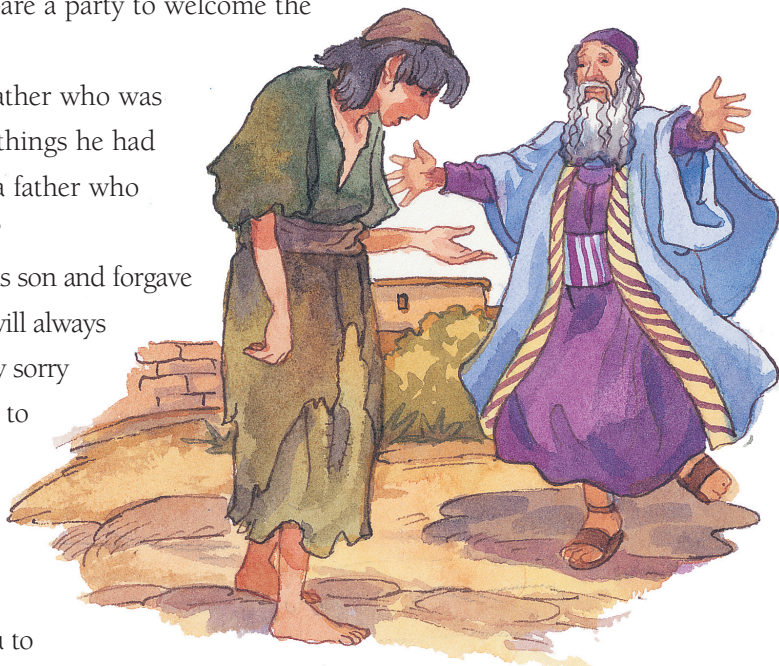
Then he started to think about his father and his home. He finally understood that his father's rules were to protect him. The rules would also help him grow up to be good and kind. He realized that no one at his father's home lived like this. Even the servants who were paid to work for his father had plenty to eat. The son thought to himself, *I haven't been a very good son. I don't deserve to have my father take me back. But maybe he'll give me a job working for him. I'll go back and ask my father to let me be one of his servants.*

So the boy left the filthy pigs and their smelly food, and he began the long walk back to his father's house. While he was still a long way from the house, his father saw him and ran out to meet him. He was so happy to see his son!

The son tried to tell his father that he hadn't been a very good son, and he didn't deserve to be his son anymore, but his father wouldn't even listen. He hugged and kissed his son. He ordered a servant to bring the best clothes and shoes for his son. Then he told the servant to fix the best food and to prepare a party to welcome the boy home.

Does that sound like a father who was angry at his son for the bad things he had done? Does that sound like a father who didn't love his son anymore?

Just as that father loved his son and forgave him, God loves you, and He will always forgive you when you are truly sorry for doing wrong. Just ask God to forgive you. He loves you so much! He wants to keep you close to Him. He will always be your friend. And someday He will welcome you to His home in heaven.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week read the lesson story together and use the following motions to review the memory verse.

“You, Lord, Point upward.
are good, Clap hands together.
and ready Open arms wide.
to forgive.”

Psalm 86:5. Palms together; then open as if opening a book.

SUNDAY

Help your child give one of the potpourri sachets made in Sabbath School to someone and tell them that it is to remind them that God loves them. Then let your child put the other sachet where it will remind him or her that God loves us and is always ready to forgive us.



MONDAY

Give your child a few coins and have him or her use them to “buy” small items from you. When the coins are all used, ask: What can you do to buy things you need now that your money is gone? Talk about the son in the story and why he had no money to buy food.

TUESDAY

Share pictures or a book about pigs with your

child. Talk about the way they live and what they eat. If possible, visit a place where pigs live. Ask: Would you want to live with pigs?

WEDNESDAY

Standing by your child, have your child run a little ways from you and then call him/her back to you with open arms and a happy face. Tell your child that Jesus is always waiting with open arms for us to come to Him.

THURSDAY

Cut pieces of bread in a circle or use round crackers. Use a spread your child likes to make a happy face on the bread or cracker. As you eat, talk about how happy we are that God is always ready to forgive us.



FRIDAY

To act out the story, let your child pretend to run away from you. “Look” for him or her and open your arms and share hugs when he or she runs back to you. Talk about how much you love your child. Then celebrate God’s love by singing thank-You songs and sharing a “feast” together.