Prodigal Son Accordion Display

Materials Needed

Parable Pictures A-B pp. 2-3, crayons or markers, tape

Prepare in Advance

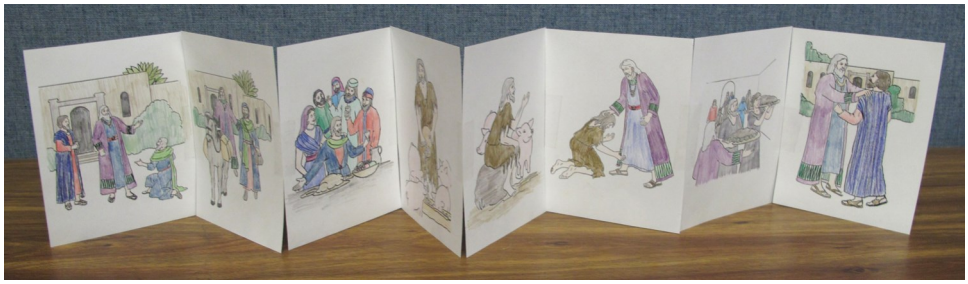
Cut the picture pages apart along the gray lines. (Hint: use a paper cutter for ease and accuracy.)

New Church Concept
The Prodigal Son

The prodigal son symbolizes those who are prodigal or wasteful of spiritual riches. His return to his father and his confession that he was not worthy to be called his son symbolize repentance of heart and humility. The best robe that is given to the son means important first truths. The ring means the conjunction of good and truth in the internal person. The fatted calf symbolizes the goodness of love and of charity. Eating and being merry mean heavenly joy and affection. See *Apocalypse Explained* 279

The parable of the prodigal son teaches that even when we choose to move away from the Lord, He will always welcome us back with open arms when we "come to ourselves" and are ready to return to Him. In this project, children sequence pictures of the story to create a table-top display to help them remember the parable.

1. Give each child a set of cut apart *Parable Pictures A-B* (pp. 2-3) and have them arrange the pictures in order in front of them. Use the story sequence list below to help order the pictures.
2. Once pictures are in order, have children tape them together, creating "seams" which will fold to make an accordion. One small piece of tape in the center of each "seam" works fine.
3. Show children how to fold the display back and forth to make it stand.
4. Invite the children to retell the story, using their sequenced pictures.
5. Color the pictures.



Story Sequence:

1. A father had two sons, and the younger one asked for his inheritance.
2. The younger son took the inheritance his father gave him and went away to a far country.
3. The son wasted his inheritance on prodigal living.
4. There was a famine, and the son had to feed pigs to survive.
5. The son came to himself and decided to go home.
6. The son offered to become his father's servant, but the father was overjoyed to see him.
7. The father gave his son clothes and a ring and told his servants to prepare a feast.
8. The older son was angry, but the father reminded him that he loved both of his children.

© 2022 General Church of the New Jerusalem









Parable Pictures A









Parable Pictures B