

# **The Prodigal Son**

## *A Retelling of Luke 15:11-32*

*Luke 15:11-19*

The Lord told a story about a man who had two sons:

The younger son asked his father to give him the wealth he would inherit. And the father gave the son a part of his wealth.

A few days later, the younger son took his things and traveled to a country far away. There he wasted all of his wealth, living foolishly. After he had spent all his wealth, there was a severe famine in that country (there wasn't enough food for people to eat), and he was very hungry.

He went to work for someone feeding swine. He would have been happy to eat the swine's food, but no one gave him anything to eat.

Then he said, "My father's servants have plenty of bread, but I will die of hunger. I will go to my father and say, "Father, I have been very bad."

And he went to his father, and his father saw him coming.

### **Teaching Ideas**

Ask the children:

- What do you think the father did?
- Do you think he was angry with his son?
- Do you think he was happy to see him?

**Read Luke 15:20-24** from the Word to find out what happened next.

Talk about what the reading to make sure the children understand the story.

The last part of the story (see retelling of Luke 15:25-32) is optional, depending on the time and the attentiveness of the children.

*Luke 15:25-32*

Now the older son was in the field. And when he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

One of the servants told him that his brother had come home. His father was having a party, because he was so happy that he had come home safe and sound.

The older son was angry, and he would not go in. So his father came out to talk with him.

The older son complained that he had always been good, but his father hadn't given him a party.

The father said that the son should be happy, because he would have the rest of the father's wealth - everything that he had would be the older son's. And they should be happy that the younger son had come home safe and celebrate with a party for him.