

R.E. lesson- Christianity: Who is Jesus? Jesus tells the parable of 'the prodigal son'

These activities will help you explore why Jesus is important in the Christian faith. We will look at the Bible story of Jesus telling a parable about 'the prodigal son' and what this story tells us about what God is like.

Watch the story by clicking <https://vimeo.com/35595649>. You can also read the story below (and on page 3).



Luke Chapter 15, verses 11—31

Jesus tells 'The parable of the Prodigal Son'



Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me the part of your property that I will inherit when you die.' So the father divided his wealth between his two sons.



A few days later the younger son gathered up all that he had and left. He travelled far away to another country, and there he wasted his money. After he spent everything he had, there was a terrible famine throughout the country. He was hungry and needed money. So he went and got a job in the fields feeding pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything.

"The son realized that he had been very foolish. He thought, 'All my father's hired workers have plenty of food. But here I am, almost dead because I have nothing to eat. I will leave and go to my father. I will say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But let me be like one of your hired workers.' So he left and went to his father.



What do you think the father was thinking as he waved goodbye to his son? Write it in the thought bubble.

Good to know:

Jewish people were not allowed to eat pork. Pigs were considered as dirty and 'unclean animals'. Looking after pigs would have been one of the lowest and dirtiest jobs someone could do.

Explain what kind of jobs would you NOT like to do and why?

Vocabulary

Parable - a story with a hidden meaning

Prodigal - a wasteful person

Inheritance - possessions and/or money passed on from one person to another when they die

Sin - wrong things people think, say or do

Famine - shortage of food / hunger



**What do you think the son is thinking when he ends up looking after pigs?
Write it in the thought bubble.**

While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming and felt sorry for him. So he ran to him and hugged and kissed him. The son said, 'Father, I have sinned against God and have done wrong to you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. 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 good sandals on his feet. And let's celebrate with plenty to eat. My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!' So they began to have a party.

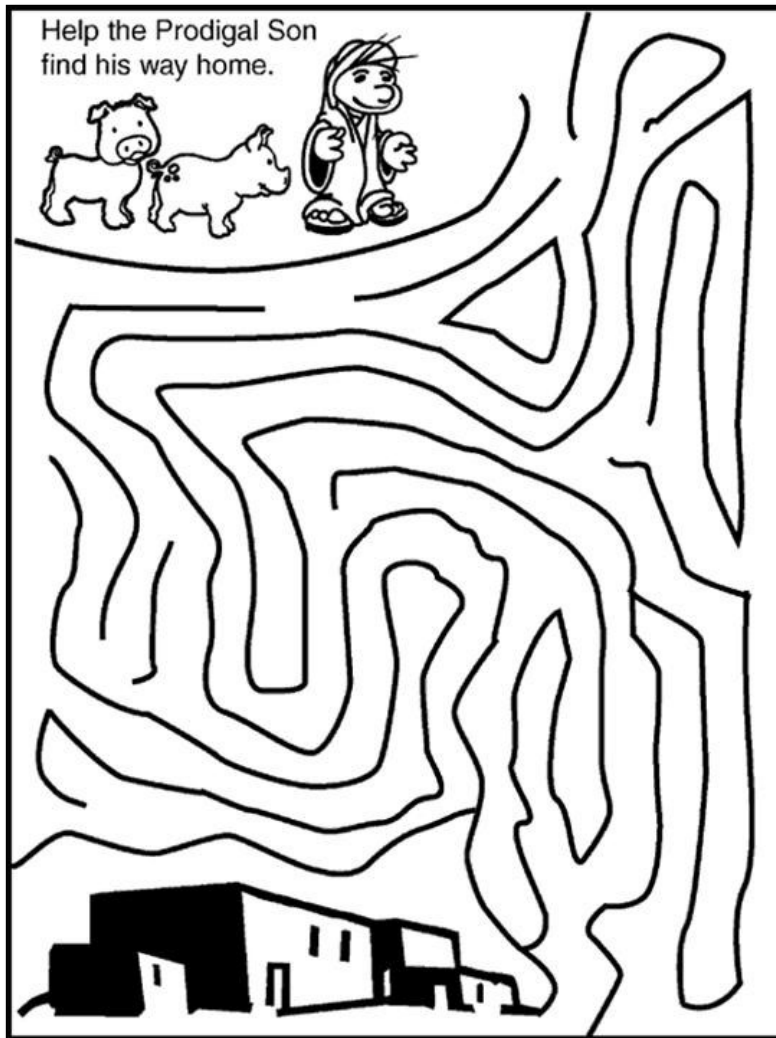


The older son had been out in the field. When he came near the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. So he called to one of the servants and asked, 'What does all this mean?' the servant said, 'Your brother has come back, and your father killed the best calf to eat. He is happy because he has his son back safe and sound. The older son was angry and would not go in to the party. So his father went out and begged him to come in. But he said to his father, 'Look, for all these years I have worked like a slave for you. I have always done what you told me to do, and you never gave me even a young goat for a party with my friends. But then this son of yours comes home after wasting your money, and you kill the best calf for him!'

His father said to him, 'Oh, my son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.'



Rembrandt painted this famous painting of the 'Prodigal Son'. Can you describe what happens in the painting?



Use the following code to 'decode' the answer:
A=B, B=C, C=D, Z=A, etc.

Who is the father in the story?

FNC

Draw your own picture of the father welcoming his son back home. Will you include the older brother?

What does this story tell us about God?

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