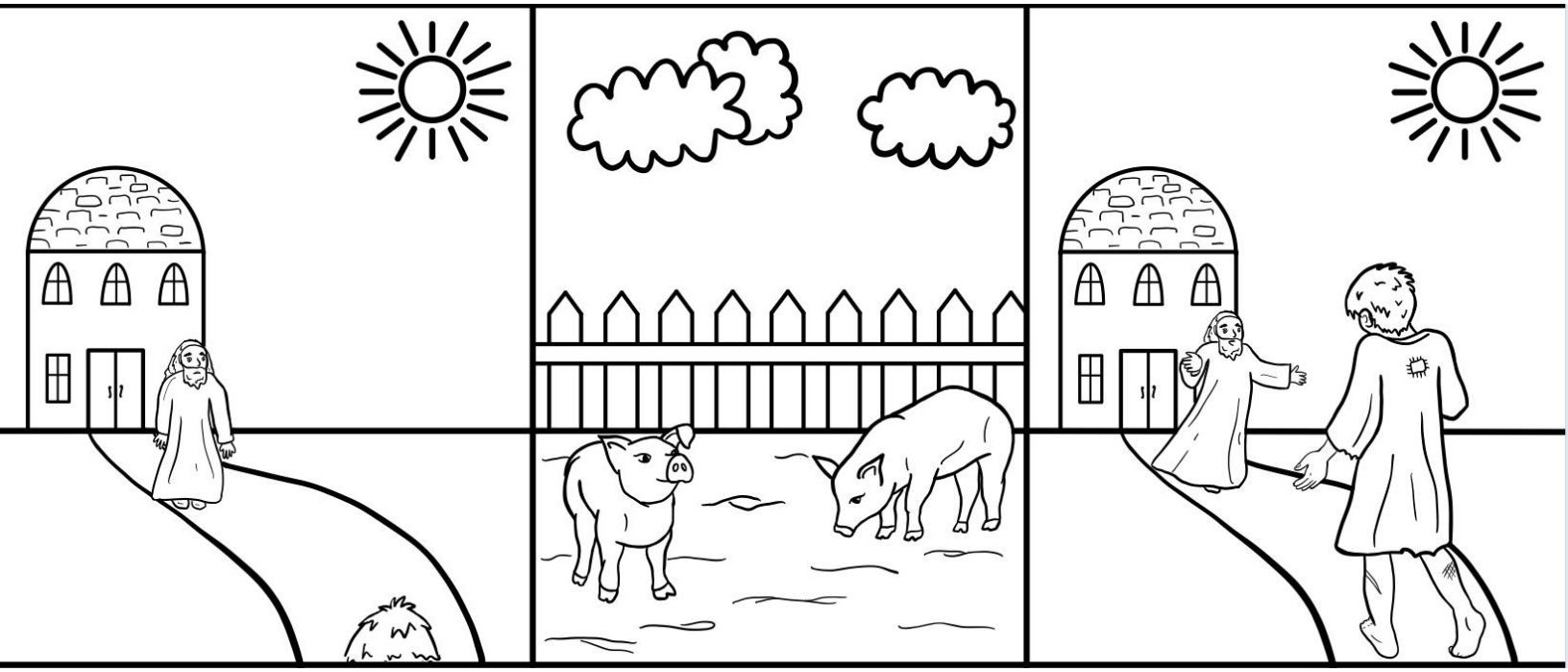
The Parable of the Prodigal Son Luke 15: 11-32



A father had two sons. The older son worked tirelessly for his father every day in the fields. The younger son asked for his father for his share of the inheritance and left home for distant new places. He wasted away all of the money on silly things and became extremely poor. A famine hit the country, and the younger son had no money and nowhere to go, so he began to work for a farmer. His job was to feed pigs, and he was so poor that he even slept in the mud with them. The son was starving and decided to return to his father and asked to work as his father's servant. Because he felt so ashamed, he did not feel worthy enough to be considered his son anymore. Instead, when the younger son returned, the father was so excited to see him that he received him with open arms, forgave him, and threw a huge party. The older brother became upset and jealous, and asked his father why there was such a great celebration for his younger brother, who wasted away his father's money, but not for him, who worked hard for his father everyday. The father told the older brother to not be jealous, and said, “Son, you are always with me, and what is mine is yours. But today we celebrate your brother because he was lost but now is found.”

In this parable, the father represents God, the older son represents a faithful follower of God, and the younger son represents a sinner asking for forgiveness. Just like the father is so happy when his son returns, God is happy when we repent and turn toward Him after we make a mistake. This parable teaches us that no matter what happens or what we do, if we ask God for His mercy and repent for something we did wrong, He will always welcome us and forgive us. In turn, we should also offer others our forgiveness when they apologize for doing something wrong.

Forgiveness

Main Lesson:
No matter what we do, if we change and repent, God will forgive us.

I Spy..

A big house ☐

A sad father ☐

A happy father ☐

The younger son leaving ☐

The younger son returning☐

Two pigs ☐

Activity:

String Demonstration