

This week we are learning about

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

We are welcome in God's home.



A Dad and Two Sons

Jesus told a story about a man who loved both of his sons.



Name _____

READ IT

This week's Bible story is
The Prodigal Son
from Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

God loves everyone, always and no matter what!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Father
- Older son
- Younger son
- Pigs
- Party

The story of the Prodigal Son is told in Chapter 15 of Luke. Every story in Chapter 15 is about lost things — a lost sheep, a lost coin, a lost son! In each of the stories, the "lost one" is searched for or waited for, even when that searching or waiting seemed like a waste of time. This is how God loves us — searching for us with longing and determination, loving us no matter what.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 378-383

Spark Bible pages 1153-1154

Family Prayer

Say this prayer with everyone wearing a party hat.

Thank you, God, for searching for us and waiting for us. Thank you for finding us and loving us always and no matter what! AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 How do you know when somebody loves you? How do you show someone you love them?
- 2 How would you feel if you were the younger brother in this story? The older brother?
- 3 How is the father in this story like God?
- 4 Have fun retelling this story in the car. Have one person start "*Jesus told a story about a man who had two sons. The younger one said, 'Then have the next person continue the story. Add in descriptions of the story's characters, the parties, and the pigsty. Ask questions of each other like 'What do you think he looked like?' 'What do you think they ate?'*" Make the story as imaginative as you can.



Eye Spark

Whenever you see a heart, remember that God loves everyone — always and no matter what!



Ear Spark

When you hear noises from a big joyful gathering of people (at church, the playground, a party, etc.), remember this story's party for the son who was lost and then found.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Have a lost and found party! Play Hide and Seek, eat party food, and dance. Make party favors that say "God loves you always and no matter what!" and then use them to surprise someone.

For younger kids

Play a lost and found game! Take turns hiding something from the story, like a ring, a stuffed pig, or fancy party clothes. Then have everyone look for it. When you find it, put on some lively music and dance to celebrate!

For older kids

Put together a picture scavenger or treasure hunt. Take photos or draw pictures of things in your home or neighborhood. Invite friends and family go for a hunt to find what is in the photos or pictures. Each one can lead to another clue, or certain things can be found and put together to solve a puzzle. Have fun with it!

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The Prodigal Son



Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Name _____

God loves us, even when we make mistakes!

The Prodigal Son's Party

It's a party for the prodigal son! The son who left home and spent all of his money having fun came back. These colored balloons can help us remember how people in the story felt:

The younger son was **EXCITED** about leaving home.

The father was **SAD** to see him go.

The father was **HAPPY** when that same son returned.

The older son was **ANGRY** when his brother was welcomed back.

The father **LOVED** both boys—no matter what.



Today's Bible story, **The Prodigal Son**, is from the book of **Luke**. Luke is one of the four Gospels. The other three Gospels are Matthew, Mark, and John.

Gospels tell the story of Jesus' life.

Close to God's Heart

Even though the prodigal son made mistakes, his father always loved him.

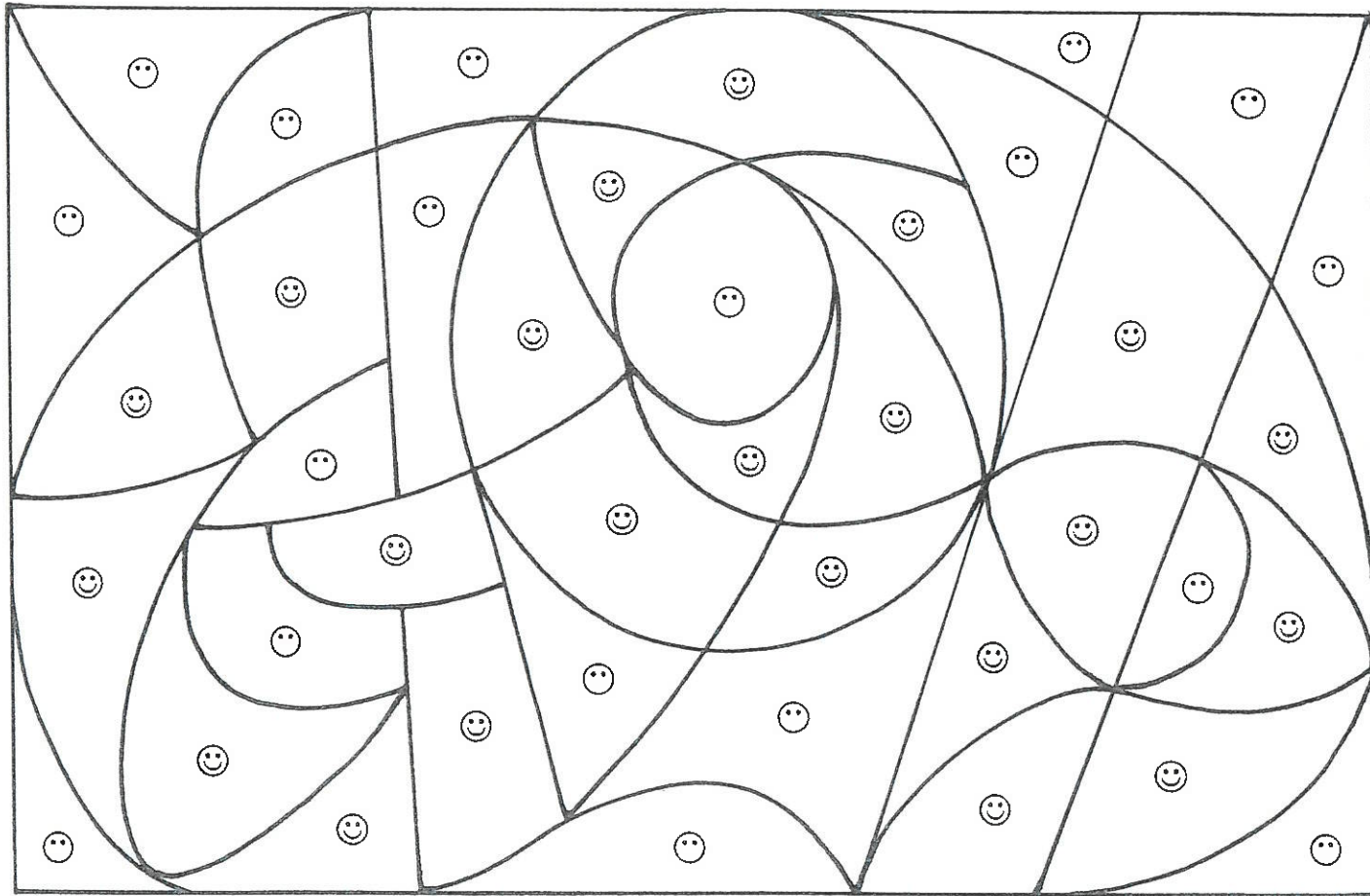
Here is a picture of me today. God always loves me, even when I make mistakes.



TRY IT!

Freely Forgiven

Like the prodigal son, we all need forgiveness. Who always forgives us when we've done something wrong? To find the answer, color only those shapes that have a 😊 in them.



Faith
on the **Go!**

Today's Bible story, **The** [] **Son**, is from the

book of []. Luke is one of the four Gospels. The other three

Gospels are Matthew, Mark, and John. [] tell the story of Jesus' life.

Here, Piggy Piggy!



The prodigal son was working for a man who owned pigs when he decided to go home. Pigs today are like pigs in Bible times. Did you know that:

Pigs **don't sweat**. They roll in the mud to cool off.

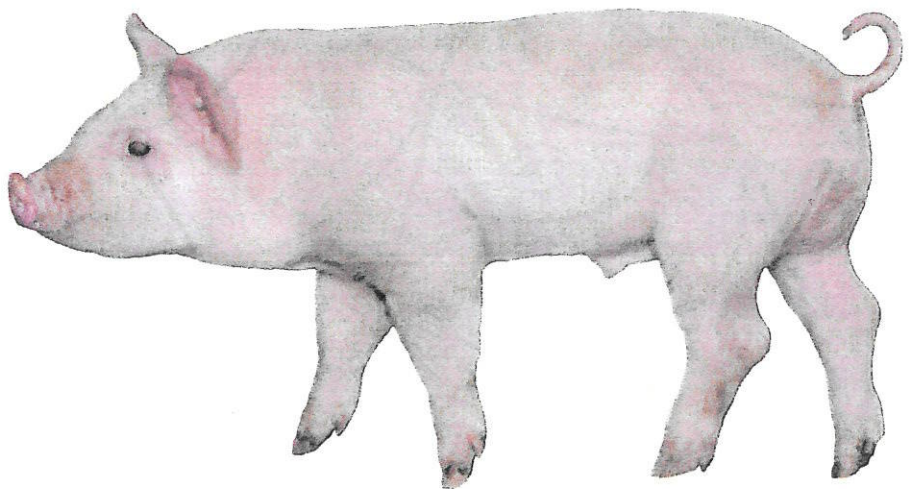
Pigs **can run** a mile in seven minutes.

Pigs **will eat** dead insects, worms, and tree bark.

Pigs are the **fourth smartest animals**.

Pigs **can get sunburned** because they don't have a lot of hair.

Pigs **tiptoe**. They have four toes on each foot, but they use the two middle toes for walking.



God loves us, even when we make mistakes!

To: _____ From: _____ Date: _____

I want to:

___ Tell you about the prodigal son

___ Visit a farm

___ Bake a party cake together

___ Read a book about pigs

___ Play a party game

___ Make a "Welcome Home" sign

___ Invite you to church

___ Give you a big hug

___ Say "I'm sorry"

___ Pray for you

___ My own idea: _____

Prodigal Son Scramble

How much do you know about the prodigal son? Unscramble the words below to complete the sentences. Then write each circled letter on the blank line to solve the riddle!

The prodigal son had to work with these animals:



GLPS

This person was overjoyed when the prodigal son returned:



THERAF

Who was jealous of the prodigal son?



ROBTHER

"My son was _____ and has been found!"

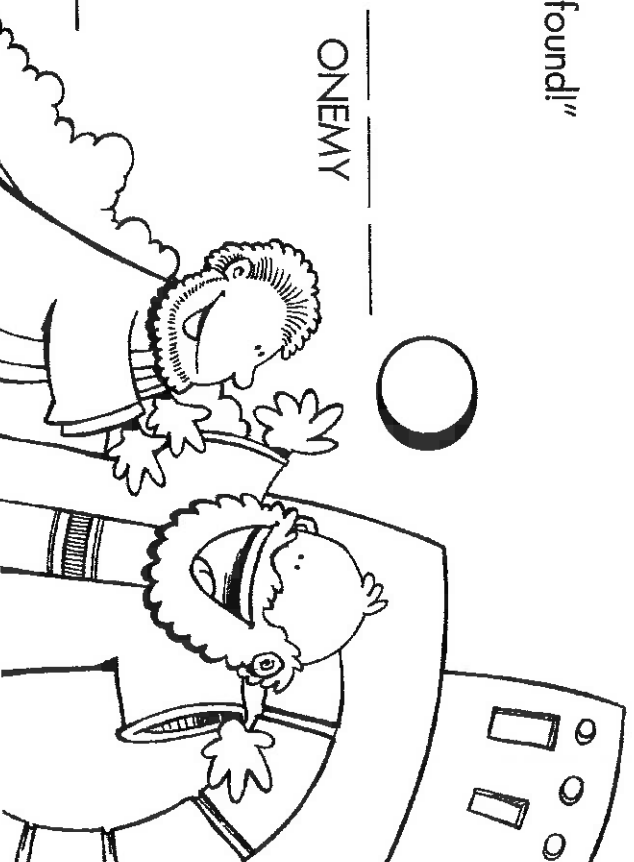


SOTL

The prodigal son was hungry after he ran out of:



ONEMY



Prodigal Son Scramble Solution

How much do you know about the prodigal son? Unscramble the words below to complete the sentences. Then write each circled letter on the blank line to solve the riddle!

The prodigal son had to work with these animals:

P I G S

PIGS

This person was overjoyed when the prodigal son returned:

F A T H E R

FATHER

Who was jealous of the prodigal son?

B R O T H E R

BROTHER

"My son was L O S T and has been found!"

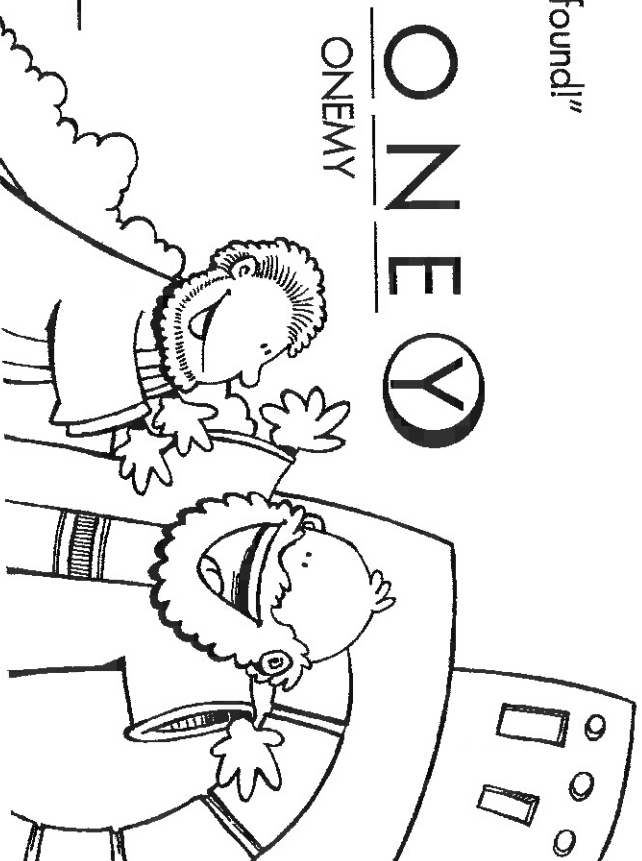
LOST

The prodigal son was hungry after he ran out of:

M O N E Y

MONEY

P A R T Y



The Prodigal Son



Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

God loves **you**, even when you **mess up**.

I wonder...

- If the older brother went to the party.
- How long the prodigal son was gone.
- Why the father didn't let the prodigal son finish his apology.

All Messed Up

Olivia was so mad that she was seeing red...and yellow. For the second time today her grandma was making her clean up after her baby sister Elise. The first time it was cleaning Elise's lunch mess. Now she was washing the floor and the refrigerator door. Elise had tried finger painting with ketchup and mustard.

It was totally gross and totally unfair! Olivia already had a list of chores a mile long. She had to do them every day, plus she had to clean up after whatever nastiness Elise created. Elise should live with the pigs, she thought.

The extra work was bad enough, but as she cleaned up the red and yellow masterpiece of grossness she could hear Elise playing in the bath water as Grandma washed the mustard out of her hair. Grandma was even singing a song to her! Elise makes the mess, I clean it. Grandma plays with Elise, I get sentenced to cleaning the kitchen!

"And then the bubbles POPI!" they both sang, laughing. If I made a mess like this, Olivia thought, Grandma wouldn't be singing a song to me. She'd be hollering about how I should know better and how I'd better

clean up that mess and then march right up those stairs and get myself cleaned up.

Why can't she love me
as much as she loves
Elise?



A Father's Advice

Each grid has four rows of four-letter words. Write the answer to each clue in the row next to it. If you're stumped for the answer, look up the verse included with the clue. When you've solved each grid you'll have two sets of jumbled letters. Use them to solve the following riddle. Use the blue letters for the missing blue word and the yellow letters for the missing yellow word.

The prodigal son thought their food looked good (Luke 15:16)

One of the things that Jesus does with sinners (Luke 15:2)

Mmmm, pig food (Luke 15:16)

Which robe did the father give to the prodigal son? (Luke 15:22)

Finger jewelry (Luke 15:22)

Prodigal son party food (Luke 15:23)

Boxers wear them; so do superheroes and prodigal sons (Luke 15:22)

Not alive (Luke 15:24)

What the father should have told the older son:

"_____ being such a _____!"



Look it up!

Look up dissolute living on **page 1153** in your Spark Bible. What would this look like today?



Memory Verse

But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found. **Luke 15:32**

Fun Facts

During **Bible times**, the sons were not supposed to get their money until after their father died.

The **younger son** was treating his father as if he were dead.

The part of the story about **pigs** would have grossed out Jews hearing it.

The father forgave the **prodigal son** before he finished his apology speech.

The **robe** and **ring** were signs of royalty.

The **Bible** never tells us if the older son went into the party.

Prodigal Panel Placer

This comic strip is too mixed up to make sense! Cut out the panels and rearrange them. When they are in the proper order, they'll tell the story of the prodigal son.





Write an ending to the story in which the older brother goes into the party.

Tell the story (with your ending) to someone in your family.

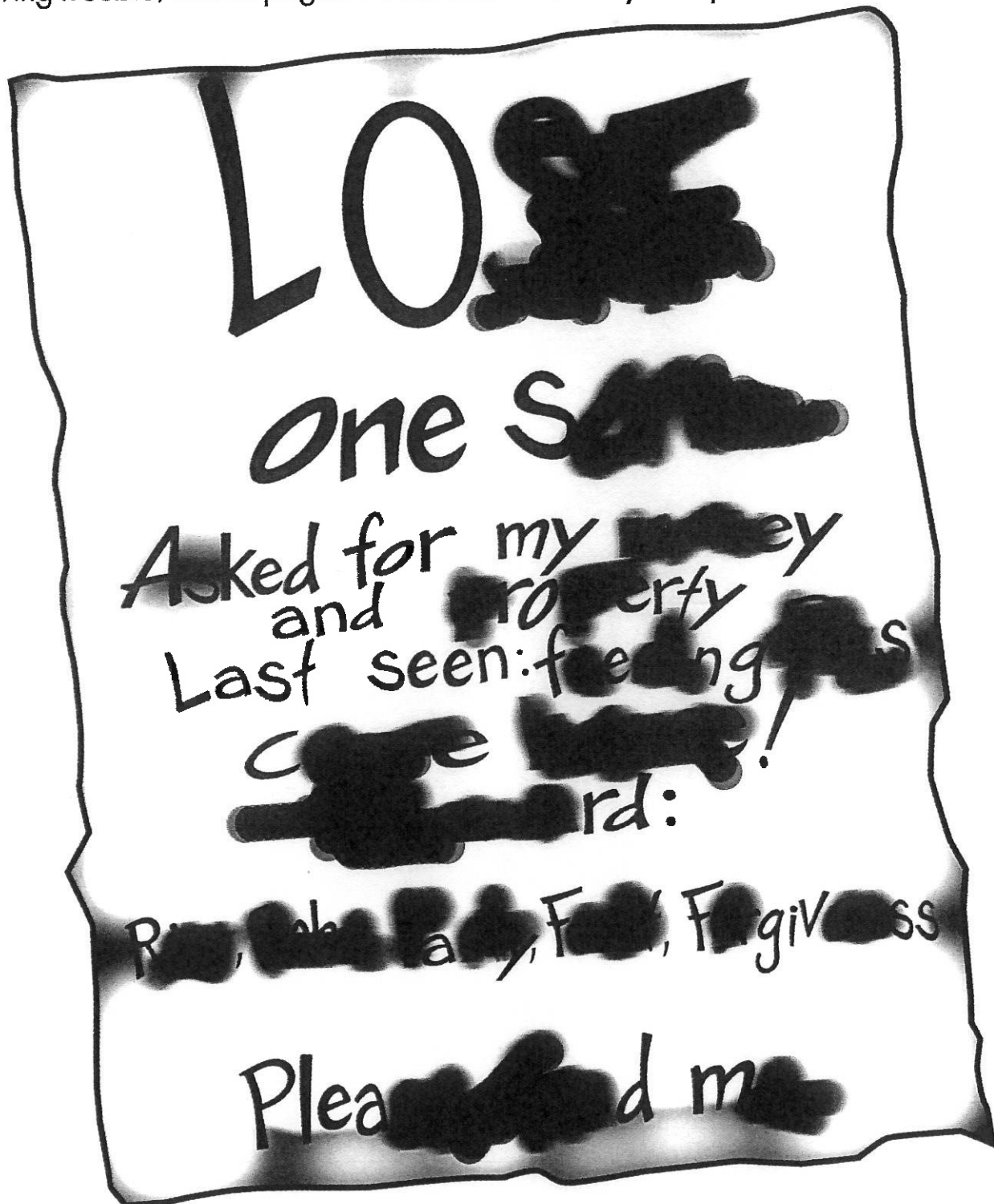
Interview family members about times when they were forgiven like the prodigal son.

Interview family members about times when they were like the older brother.

Pretending you're the prodigal son the night he got home, **write** or **draw** a thanksgiving prayer that talks to God about how you're feeling.

Wanted: One Son

The Prodigal Son was feeding the pigs when he found this sign. He recognizes his father's handwriting, but he is having trouble reading the message because of all the dirt on the page. Can you help him? If you're having trouble, turn to pages 1153 and 1154 in your Spark Bible.

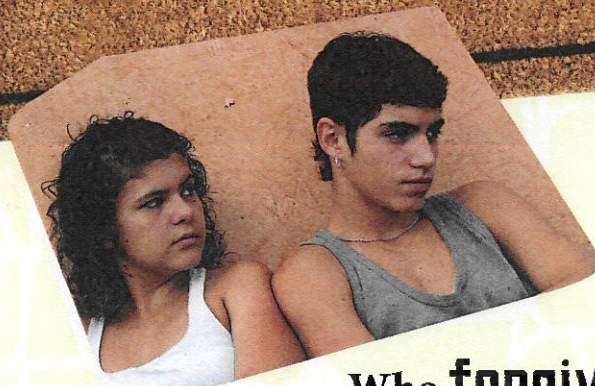


The Prodigal Son



Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

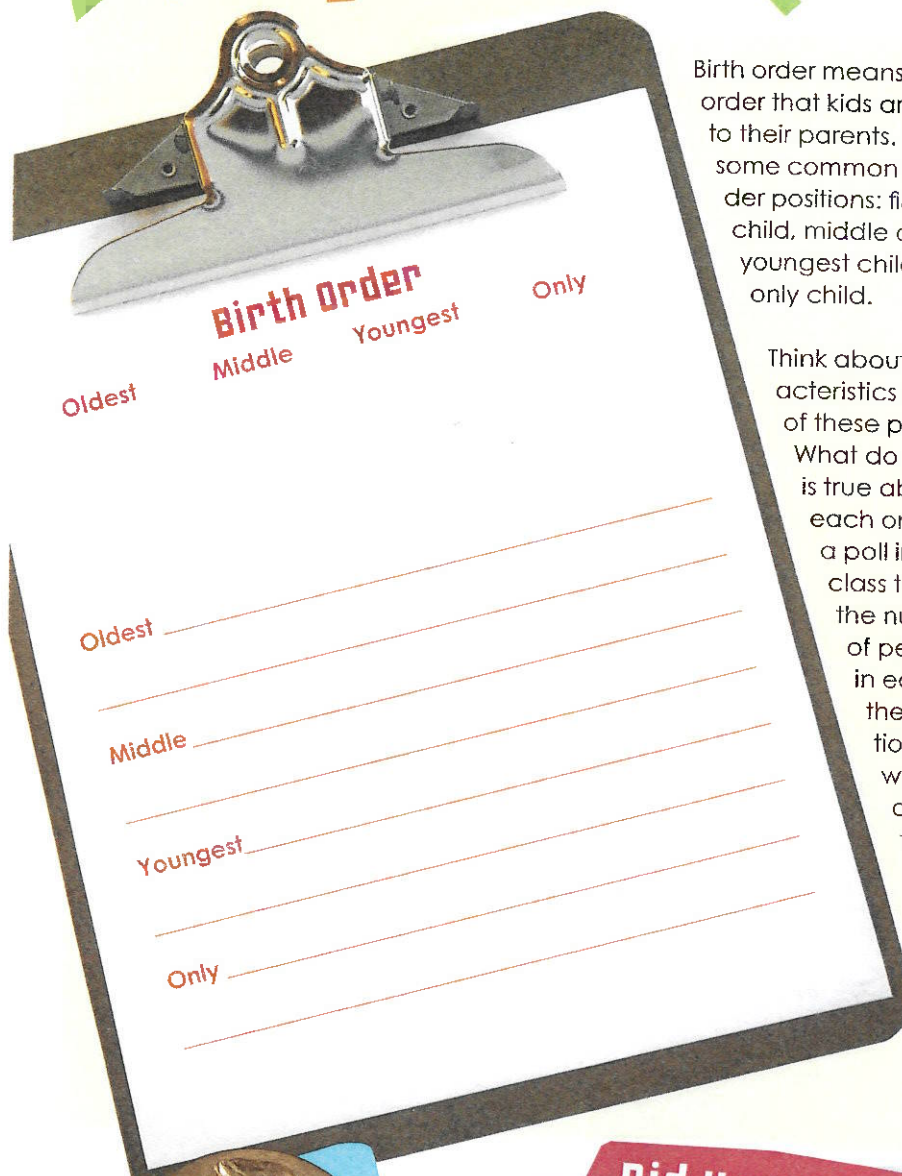
God always
WELCOMES us.



Who **forgives** me?

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Younger / older



Birth Order

Oldest Middle Youngest Only

Oldest _____

Middle _____

Youngest _____

Only _____

Birth order means the order that kids are born to their parents. Here are some common birth order positions: first-born child, middle child, youngest child, and only child.

Think about characteristics of each of these positions. What do you think is true about each one? Take a poll in your class to record the number of people in each of these positions. Then write some descriptions in the spaces.



Did You Know?

More than half of all Nobel Prize winners have been first-born children in their families.



Look it Up!

Check out 2 Corinthians 5:18. In this passage, Paul talks about a "ministry of reconciliation." What does this mean? What happens in this kind of ministry?

Act it Out

Pretend you and a partner from your group are famous movie directors. The studio has asked you to tell the story of the prodigal son from a unique perspective. Pick a character from the parable and tell the story from that perspective.



It's important to say you're sorry when you do something wrong. It's especially important to say "I'm sorry" to God and to our family and friends because they're the ones who love us most.



Here are a bunch of ways to say "I'm sorry" in other languages. Try them:

Spanish: Lo siento (pronounced low see-en-toe)

Arabic: Aasef (pronounced ah-safe)

French: Je suis désolé (pronounced zje swee de-solay)

Korean: (transliterated) Main hamnida

Sign Language:



**Faith
on the Go!**

Christian rapper Agape (Dave Scherer) encourages people to get 12 hugs a day. He says we all need that many hugs to help remind us just how much God loves us!

Hugs come in all shapes and sizes: Some use both arms, and some use just one arm. Some are short, and some are long. Some squish your ribs, and some are light. It doesn't matter what it's like—you know a good hug when you receive one. When you're out getting your 12 hugs a day this week, remember that God always welcomes us into his arms, no matter how much we mess up!



Memory Verse



Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours." Luke 15:31

Joined Back Together

The prodigal son left his family to travel and live off his father's wealth. He was separated from his family until they reunited. Nine words from the story have been separated from some of their letters. Can you join them back together? You'll have to solve the clues first and then write the missing letters.

Nickname for Stanley **S T A N**

Di **S T A N** t

Another name for girl _____

Fa _____ e

Something you tie _____

T _____ led

Black _____ white _____

P _____ rty

Rant and _____

Squ _____ er

Not max but _____

Prodi _____

A free ticket _____

Fat _____

Nickname for Theodore _____

Com _____ ion

An unpleasant child _____

Cele _____ e

Joined Back Together Solution

The prodigal son left his family to travel and live off his father's wealth. He was separated from his family until they reunited. Nine words from the story have been separated from some of their letters. Can you join them back together? You'll have to solve the clues first and then write the missing letters.

Nickname for Stanley STAN

Another name for girl GAL

Something you tie ROPE

Black white AND

Rant and RAVE

Not max but MIN

A free ticket PASS

Nickname for Theodore TED

An unpleasant child BRAT

Di STANt

Fa MINe

T RAVEled

P ROPErty

Squ ANDer

Prodi GAL

Fat TED

Com PASsion

Cele BRATe

The Prodigal Son



While he was still far away from his house, his father saw him.

The Prodigal Son



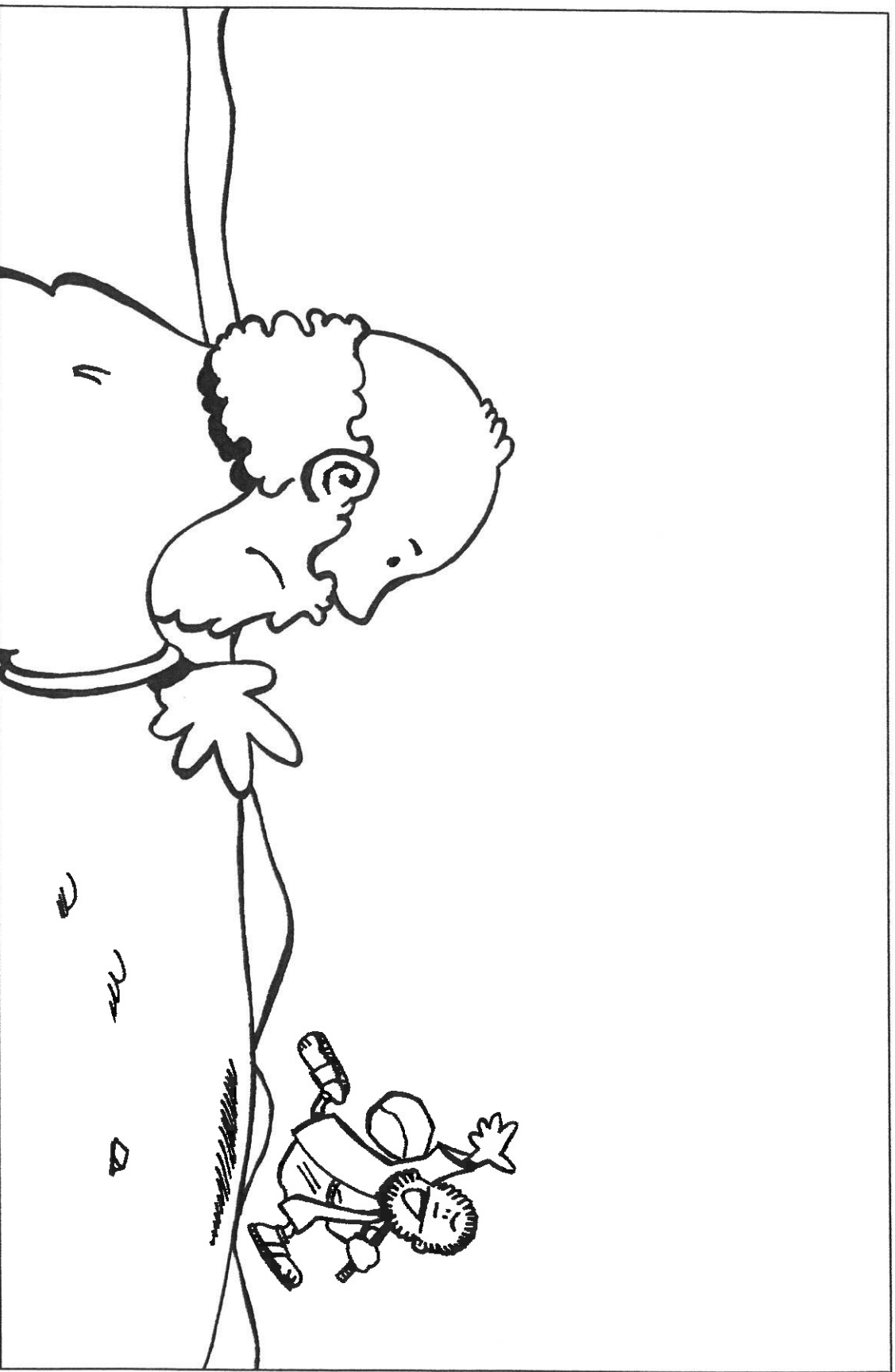
"I'm not good enough to be your son, but would you
let me work for you?"

The Prodigal Son



“Dad, I want to get away from here.” This made the father sad.

The Prodigal Son



The younger son packed his bag and headed out away from home.