

## REFLECTION IDEAS – Jesus, the storyteller

Luke chapter 15 verses 11 to 32

Jesus told many stories that are recorded in the Bible in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. These stories with deeper meanings are known as parables - simple narratives used to illustrate moral or spiritual lessons. One of the most famous is the parable of the prodigal son used in this Connect video. Prodigal is a word that is not frequently used nowadays and means 'spending money or using resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant'. The younger son in the story asks for his inheritance early and spends everything, but later regrets it and comes back to his father, not expecting forgiveness or a warm welcome, but in fact receives both. The situation of the older brother is also part of the story as he stays with the father, but is resentful when his brother's return is celebrated with a big party.

### Reflect on the parable of the prodigal son

- If you were the father, how would you have responded to the son trying to come home after spending everything? Why?
- Using three words how would you describe the father?

### Reflect on the importance of stories

- Jesus told stories that teach us lessons for how to live our lives and relate to other people. Do you know any other stories that help us to do this? They might be from books, films or told by Jesus too!

### Links

Versions of the bible story can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/kfDfMZ6MTJs> <https://youtu.be/DJgROx4wFKM>

Please check if these are suitable for your group.

## Inspire Prayer Space Activity – Mending Relationships

### Equipment

- Pens or pencils, paper, scissors, sticky tape.

### Description

- In the story, the son thought about going back to his father and saying sorry. The father was out looking for his son, welcomed him back and forgave him. The relationship between the father and son was mended when one said sorry and the other forgave. Christians believe that Jesus told this story to explain that God forgives us when we say sorry, mending our relationship with him.

### Instructions

- Think about someone you need to forgive, or someone who you need to say sorry to.
- Draw a picture of yourself and the person you thought of. Cut or tear the paper so that the two people are now separated. Their relationship is broken.
- Think about saying sorry to or forgiving the person, mending your relationship. As you do this, stick the two people together again. If you like you can thank God for the other person, or you can thank God that he forgives us.



*Adapted from a Prayer Spaces in Schools resource*

See below for activity sheets

## Jesus the storyteller

### The Parable of the Prodigal Son - Luke Chapter 15 Verses 11 to 32

Draw pictures to re-tell the story that Jesus told. Maybe you can add some speech bubbles too!

You may find the version of the story at these links useful, with images that can be downloaded to colour in:  
<https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/l5-lost-son/> <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/l5-jealous-son/>

1. Once there were two brothers.

2. One liked spending money and he asked his Dad for some.

3. He ran away with the money.

4. He spent the money on parties and friends who didn't really care for him.

<p>5. The only job he could find was horrible and he felt sorry.</p>	<p>6. He decided to go back home to ask for a job.</p>
<p>7. His Dad forgave him and threw a party because he was happy that he was home again.</p>	<p>8. Jesus told this story to show that no matter what we do, God always loves us too.</p>

**Re-tell another parable**

Jesus told many other parables, simple stories to illustrate moral or spiritual lessons. You may already know some of them – the Good Samaritan, the Wise and Foolish Builders, the Lost Sheep – and many others. Perhaps you could re-tell one of them, as a comic strip, in writing, in a drama or with puppets!

Find all the differences between the two pictures of the son feeding the pigs

