



**Aim:** To begin to share the story of the Prodigal Son with your child and the other members of the family.

**NOTE:** This parable which Jesus told, is traditionally called the "Parable of the Prodigal Son". When we have finished telling the story we will understand that it can also be called "*The Parable of the Good Father*".

**Parent:** Invite and welcome the child and other members of the family to gather in a circle at home.

- ❖ Tell everyone: Today we are going to have a story, but we will tell you only the first part. Next time we will continue the story.
- ❖ Let us imagine that Jesus is here in our home and it is he who will tell us the story.
- ❖ Invite all to be quiet and in their hearts welcome Jesus into their room with them.
- ❖ One day Jesus told a story about a young man who decided to leave home.



**Parent:** Tell the story (helped by other Members of the Family who take different parts).

(TELL the story please, do not just read it!) Tell the children the parable *slowly* in the following way:

#### The Parable of the Prodigal Son:

- ❖ Hold the Bible open at Luke Chapter 15:11-26
- ❖ Read the parable as follows: (**P = Parent, M – Other Members of the Family**)
- M.** Jesus was being criticized because he associated with people who were regarded as sinners by the Jewish leaders. So, he told them this story: (pause after each sentence)
- P.** A man had two sons.
- M.** The younger son said to his father:
- M.** "Father, let me have the share of your property that would come to me."
- P.** So, the father divided the property between them.
- A few days later the younger son got together everything that he had and left for a distant country.
- There he spent all his money on a life of wild behaviour.
- P.** What do you think about the father and his son? Allow all to share what they think.

Now continue the parable, (pausing as before):

- P.** When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine.
- He began to feel the pinch He had nothing left!
- So, he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants.
- He put him on his farm to feed the pigs.
- M.** The son was so hungry, he would have gladly eaten the pigs' food, but no one gave him anything.
- He said to himself:
- My Father's servants have more than enough to eat.
- Here am I starving!
- P.** I will go back to my Father and say:
- "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you;
- I no longer deserve to be called your son.
- Treat me as one of your paid servants."



Invite the child and the other members of the family to think of the son eating the pigs' food because he had nothing else to eat.

Invite the child and the other members of the family to discuss:

**Parent:** We will find out when we tell the other part of the story next time.

#### Prayer:

Parent: Introduces the prayer as follows:

There are many people, even young persons, who leave home and get lost. They have made a big mistake in their lives and they do not know what to do or where to go. Maybe we can think of them now and pray for them.

**Parent:** Invites the child and the other members of the family to:

Make a prayer for those who have left home. They can make their prayers out loud or silently.

**Parent:** Prays: *Lord Jesus, you said that there were times in your life when you had no place to lay your head and rest. Please help those who have left home and may be lost and are looking for help. All say: AMEN.*