

Family Catechesis for First Reconciliation (Session 4)
The Good Father, the Son who came Back Home and the Son who stayed at Home



Aim: To share the Final Part in the story of the Prodigal Son with your child and the other members of the family.

NOTE: if you have a cloak and a ring and a pair of sandals you might like to use them at the proper moment in the story. Dress your child or another of the young family members in them.

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 finish the story of the Good Father, (The Prodigal Son).
- ❖ Let us imagine that Jesus is here in our home and it is he who is telling the story.
- ❖ Invite all to be quiet and in their hearts welcome Jesus into the room with them.
- ❖ Last time, Jesus was telling a story of a young man who decided to leave home but came back home again.

Parent: Invite your child and the other members of the family to recall what happened so far in the story.

Parent: Now begin to tell the final part of the story, helped by other members of the family, who take different parts of the story: (Just like the last time).

Recalling: The Parable of the Prodigal Son (Part 2)

M. The son who had left home, came to his senses and he left the place and began to go back to his father. While his son was still a long way off his father saw him coming.

P. His Father ran towards his son and kissed him tenderly.

M. His son said: "I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son".

P. But his father ordered his servants: "Bring out the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger! Put sandals on his feet!"

M. And he ordered his servants to kill the fatted calf and have a feast in celebration.

Parent: We continue now with **The Story of the Prodigal Son (Part 3):**

P. Now the elder son, who had stayed at home, was angry at his father because he had welcomed the younger son home again. He refused to join in the celebrations welcoming him back.

(Different members of the family:)

➤ He complained to his father: "Look all these years I slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders.

➤ You never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends.

➤ But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening!"

Parent: Pause then continue:

P. His father said to him: "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Parent: Ask the child and other members of the family:

- Why was the elder son so angry?
- What was the Father asking his elder son to really do? Why?

Allow all to give their answers:

Parent: Now ask all:

- What do you think of the Father in this story of the Prodigal Son or the Good Father, told by Jesus?
- What is God like?

Parent and other Family Members:

- ❖ Jesus teaches us a new way of thinking about God.
- ❖ When we go astray, God can bring us back and forgive us, because God is a Good Father.
- ❖ God always forgives us and welcomes us back home to him. All the angels in heaven rejoice because of this.

Celebration: Parent invites all to respond to God the Good Father by saying together:

O give thanks to the LORD for he is good; his mercy lasts for ever,

** Share some juice and biscuits, again, among the family!!

