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# The Forgiving Father

*Cultivating Lifestyles of Reconciliation*

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## The Forgiving Father

Based on Luke 15:11-32

By *Ted Kober*

**Summary:** In Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, a forgiving father seeks to restore both of his sons. The younger son demands his share of the inheritance then squanders it on wild living. In desperation, the son returns to seek a servant position with his father, but the father restores him to full status as son and celebrates. When the older son becomes indignant, the father seeks to restore him as well him. Requires 5 actors including a narrator. Takes about 5 minutes.

**Audience:** Children & General

**Actors:** Narrator, Father, Younger Son (Younger), Older Son (Older), Servant

*Note to Actors: To prepare for this skit, read Luke 15:11-32.*

**Props:** Nice clothes, socks, and shoes  
Ragged clothes  
Pail/bucket and food item, such as fruit roll or gummy worms  
Nice robe, sandals, ring  
Party hat

**Narrator:** In the 15th chapter of Luke from the Bible, Jesus told a story about a man who had two sons. This story shows us just how much God loves us and forgives us, even when we have sinned in terrible ways.

The younger son wanted to be all on his own and do whatever he pleased. So he told his father:



**Younger:** Father, I am ready to move out and be on my own. Give me my share of your inheritance.

*The father looks saddened and hurt, but pretends to pay younger son his share of the inheritance. Both leave stage. Younger prepares for next scene by taking off nicer clothes, shoes, and socks. Puts on ragged clothes.*

**Narrator:** Although this was a selfish thing for a son to demand of his father, the father divided his property between his sons and gave his younger son a share of his property.

The younger son took his father's property, sold everything he could, and then took a long trip to a country very far away. He wasted all that money on wild living. He wasn't careful at all with his father's money but spent it on parties and foolish ways. In fact, he spent it so quickly that soon he had nothing left. Then a famine came into that country, and food was hard to find anywhere, especially for someone who didn't have any money.

*Younger son comes out barefoot.*

So the younger son looked for a job where he could earn some money to pay his bills. Finally, a farmer hired him to feed pigs, a very unpleasant and distasteful job for this younger son.

**Younger:** *[Picks up a pail and pretends to throw food to pigs.]* I'm really hungry. No one will give me anything to eat! I am so hungry that I would even eat this food I am giving to the pigs. *[He then takes the food item out of the pail, and holding it above his mouth, eats it, making a sour face.]*

**Narrator:** The boy began to realize how good he really had it back home living with his father and brother. He began to feel true sorrow for the way he had acted, including his selfish desires and wasting his father's money. And then he got an idea.

**Younger:** Wow, if only I was back home with my father. How many of my father's servants have more than enough to eat, and here I sit starving?! I know what I should do. I will go home to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I wasted everything you gave me on wild living, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But I am poor and hungry. Please let me work for you as one of your hired servants."

*Younger walks off toward home.*

**Narrator:** In the meantime, the Father was watching every day for his son.

