The Prodigal Son
Luke 15:11-32

Story:

★ **Introduction & Story**:

Simple Timeline Recap: "God created the world and it was perfect. Adam and Eve sinned (sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God) and everyone after them also sinned. This separates us from God, but God has a plan to have a relationship with people. And that plan is Jesus - His Son. He sent His Son to die and offer forgiveness. When we accept this forgiveness, we can live with God forever. Today's story is about Jesus when He lived on Earth. Jesus taught in parables. Parables are stories that have a lesson in them.

Today's Story: One day Jesus was teaching and preaching among the people. As he was teaching, he told several parables. One of the parables that he told was about a man that had two sons. The younger of the two sons asked the father if he could have his inheritance right then instead of waiting for the father to die to get his share of the estate (the money that is left when someone dies and is given to their heirs.) So, the father gave his younger son the portion of the estate that he would have received after the father died.

Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he owned and traveled to a distant country. There he spent all his money on foolish living. After he had no money left, a severe famine struck that country, and he had nothing. He went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He wished he could eat the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one would give him anything.

Then he came to his senses, and he said, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! I'll go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against you and heaven. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired workers."'

So, he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was very glad to see him. The father ran, threw his arms around the son's neck, and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against you and heaven. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father told his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then bring the fattened calf and slaughter it, and let's celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate."

★ **Connection to God's Overall Story/Plan**:

God is like this father. God loves us and wants for us to return to Him. Even though our sin separates us from God – this is because our sin and God's holiness cannot be together. God still loves us. Like this father, God is waiting for us with hugs and kisses when we return.

Like the son, it is our responsibility to return to God. We need to apologize and change our actions. God will help us with that when we return to him.

This does not mean that we can do whatever we want and ask for forgiveness and then keep on sinning on purpose. The best thing to do is to abide in Jesus - to live closely with Jesus. When this son returned to his father, there were celebrations, but some consequences still remained and trust has to be rebuilt.

Theological Themes

- **Grace** – Forgiveness before repayment.
- **Repentance** – Turning back toward the Father.
- **Adoption** – Restored as son, not servant.

Historical / Cultural Background

- Asking for inheritance early was deeply dishonoring.
- A patriarch running publicly would have been culturally shocking.
- The robe, ring, and sandals symbolized full sonship.
- Killing the fattened calf indicated major public celebration.

Follow Up:

- ★ **Retell**: Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.
- ★ **Examine**:
  - Comprehension Questions
    - What would you call what the son did? (Selfish? Careless? Wasteful? The word Prodigal actually means "wasteful.")
    - Why was feeding pigs a terrible job for him? (Because he was Jewish – or at least Jesus was talking to a Jewish audience - and pigs were considered "unclean.")
    - Why do you think the father was glad to see him? Do you think the father should have been angry? (The son may have been very thin. He may have had dirty or tattered clothes. The Father felt compassion for him.)
  - Ask, "What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?"
    - God welcomes us back.
  - Ask, "What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?"
    - We wander from God.
    - We have the responsibility to return to Jesus. God is there waiting and He provides for us, but our hearts have to return to Him and follow Him. When we choose sin, we are choosing to walk away from God.
- ★ **Application**: Ask, "What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?"
  - God is not asking us to feed the pigs or to kill the cows. God is asking us to return to Him. God is asking us to show others God's kindness, so they can return to Him.
- ★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse Practice:

- ★ **Verse**: Luke 15:24 CSB - because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! So they began to celebrate.

Sticky Activities:

★ Worksheets & coloring pages
★ Crafts

★ **Sensory:**

- 👀 Visual
  - Near/Far Map – Show "home" and "far country."
  - Robe & Ring Props – Dress a volunteer.
- 👃 Smell
  - Pig Pen Smell – (Safe!) Vinegar on cotton ball in cup.
  - Fresh Bread Smell – Contrast with "home."
- ✋ Touch
  - Coin Counting – Feel and "spend" coins.
  - Robe Fabric – Soft cloth vs rough burlap.
- 🏃 Movement
  - Run to the Father – Kids run into open arms.
  - Freeze Drama – Act out the story in poses.
- 🔊 Sound
  - Celebration Noise – Party sounds!
  - Pig Snort Game – Silly but memorable.

Send Home Page: See attached

Today's lesson was on

The Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-32

Memory Verse:

Luke 15:24 CSB - because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! So they began to celebrate.

*Kids that recite the memory verse to the teacher next week earn a prize ☺

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Link to New Testament Books Song

Once kids know the New Testament books - they can say them to a volunteer and receive a prize!

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Memory Verse:

Luke 15:24 CSB -

because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found! So they began to celebrate.

Fill in the Blanks

Luke 15:24 CSB - because this ___ of mine was ____ and is _____ again; he was ____ and is _____! So they began to _____.

Draw this verse!

Fill in the Blanks

Luke 15:24 CSB - because this ___ of mine was ____ and is _____ again; he was ____ and is _____! So they began to _____.

Draw this verse!

Luke 15:11–32

Jesus Tells about a Patient Father

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Jesus Tells about a Patient Father

Luke 15:11–32

Jesus told a story about a man and his two sons. The younger son asked his father for the money he would one day inherit. The father gave the son what he wanted.

Soon after that, the younger son took all his money and went to another country. He spent all his money on parties and buying things for his friends. After his money was gone, there was a famine. There was no food for him to eat! None of his friends would help him. The only work he could find was feeding pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating!

Finally the son realized what he should do. He decided to go back home and ask to be hired as one of his father's servants. When the son was still far away, his father saw him. The father ran to his son and threw his arms around him.

The son said, "Father, I was wrong. I'm not good enough to be called your son."

But the father called to his servants. "Bring some new clothes for my son," he said. "Get ready for a party! My son has come home!"

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But his father rejoiced and hugged him.
"My son was lost but now he's found!"

Connect the dots.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

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Children's Worship Bulletin™

Ages 3+ **March 1, 2026 • Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

The Parable of the Lost Son

Jesus told a story about a man who had 2 sons.

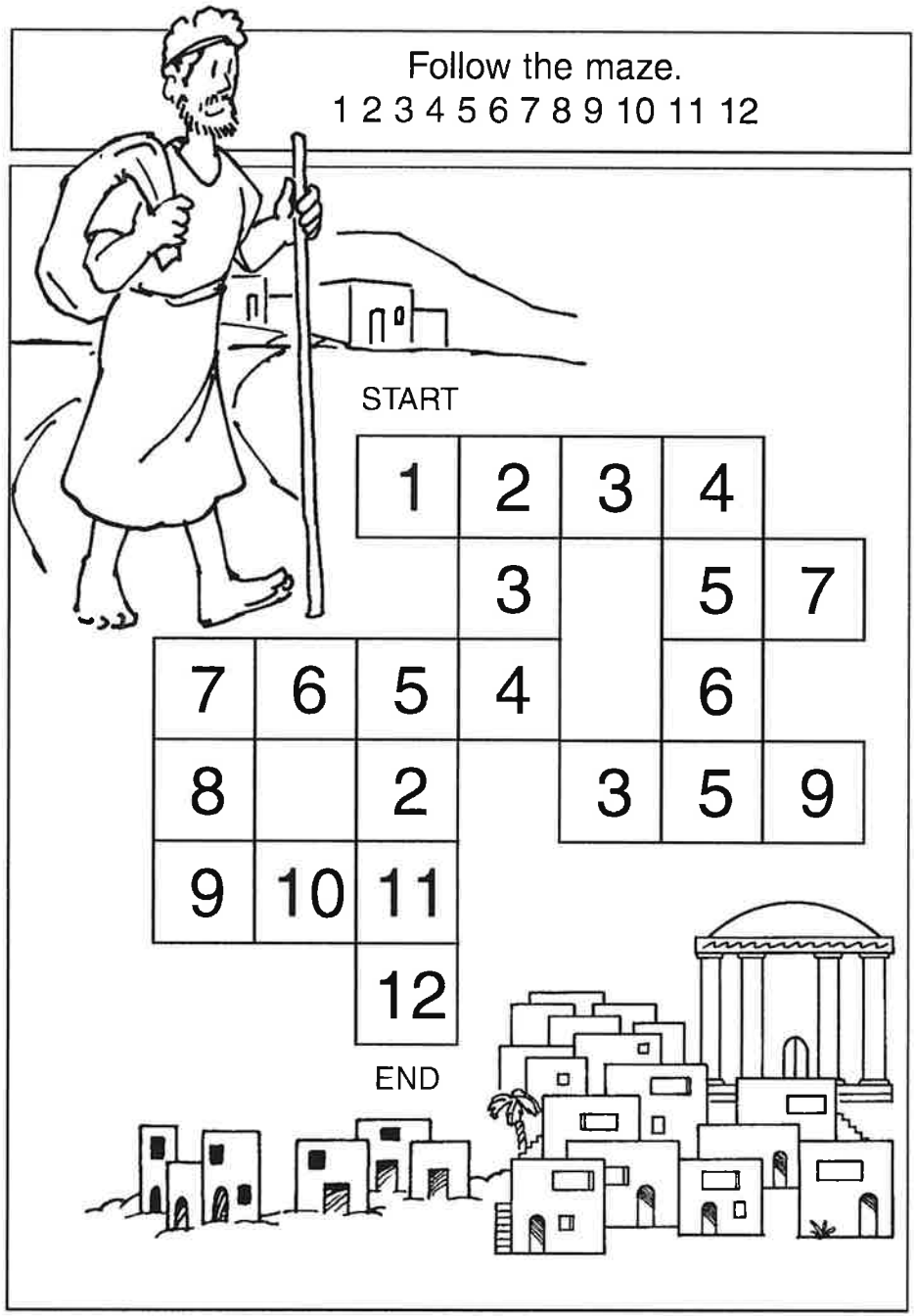
Circle the objects.

Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @ **games.childrensbulletins.com**

SECRET CODE
VNS546

One son demanded money from his father, then left home. After many days, all of his money was gone.

Follow the maze.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12



He came home, saying he was sorry.

Follow the code to fill in the vowels.

= a = e = i

= o = u

"F ___ th ___ r,

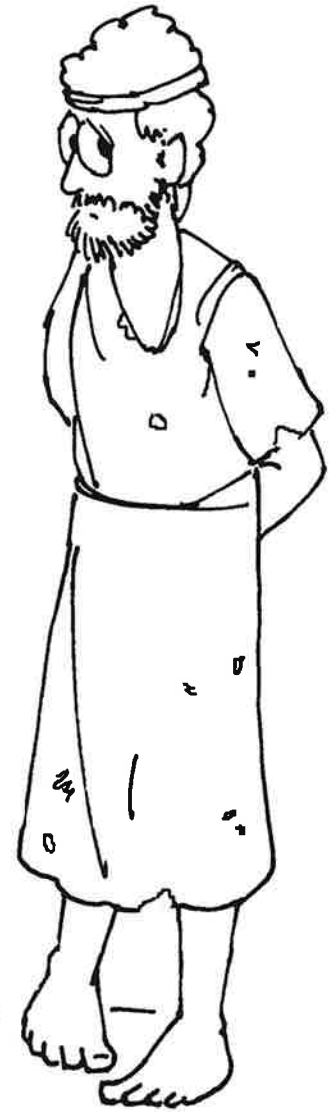
I h ___ v ___

s ___ nn ___ d

___g___ ___nst

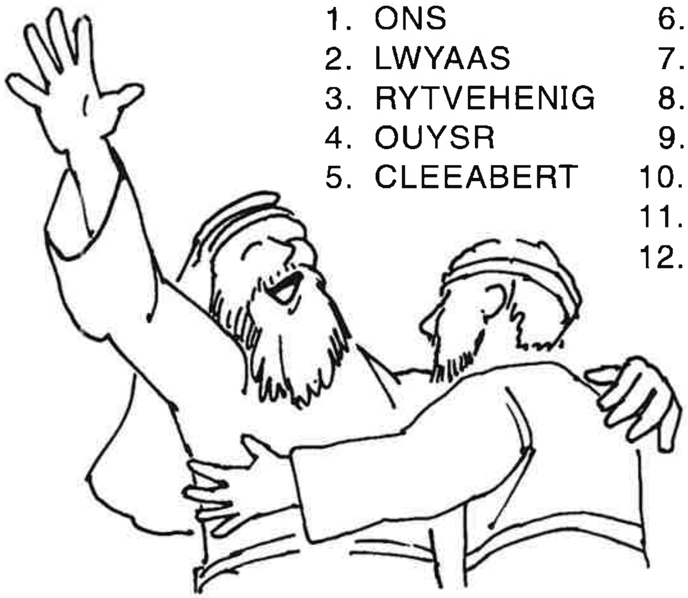
G___d ___nd

y___u."



When the older brother found out, he became angry. What did his father say to him?

Unscramble each word to fill in the blanks below.



1. ONS
2. LWYAAS
3. RYTVEHENIG
4. OUYSR
5. CLEEABERT
6. DLGA
7. OTRRBHE
8. DADE
9. AEVIL
10. NGIAA
11. TSLO
12. FDNOU

"My ______(1)," the father said, "you are ______(2) with me, and ______(3) I have is ______(4). But we had to ______(5) and be ______(6), because this ______(7) of yours was ______(8) and is ______(9) ______(10); he was ______(11) and is ______(12)."

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Children's Worship Bulletin™

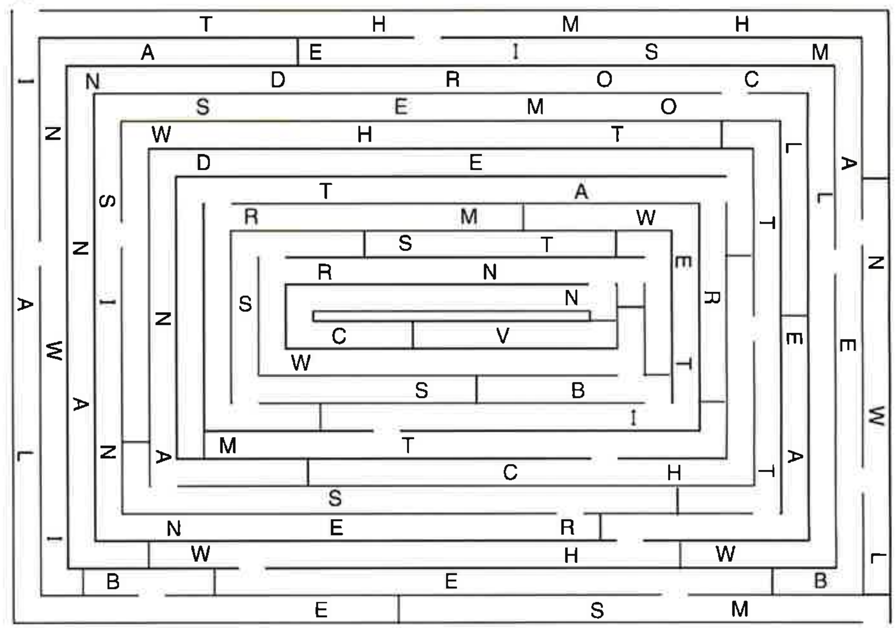
Ages 7+

March 1, 2026 • Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Parable of the Lost Son

Tax collectors and sinners gathered to hear Jesus. Seeing this, what did the Pharisees and teachers of the law say to themselves?

Find the correct path through the maze to find the letters to fill in the blanks.



"_ _."

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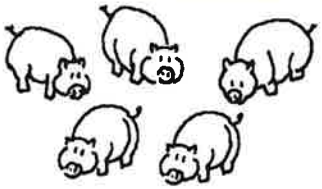
SECRET CODE
BZBV70

Jesus told a parable: A man had two sons. The younger son asked him for his share of the inheritance. He wasted his wealth in wild living in a distant country. But after he had spent everything, he began to be in need! What did he do?

Use this code to fill in the blanks.

	◇	O	✕	☆	□
°	A	B	C	D	E
°	F	G	H	I	L
°	M	N	O	P	R
°	S	T	U	V	W



◇° °✕ ✕° °□ □° °□ °O °° °◇ °O °☆

✕° ☆° °□ °□ °☆ ✕° ☆° °◇ ◇° °□ □° ◇°

°✕ ✕° °° °° °✕ °◇ °✕ ☆° °° ☆° z °□ °O

°✕ ◇° °° ✕° °◇ °° °✕ °✕ ✕° °O °° °□ y,

□° ✕° °✕ ◇° °□ °O °° ✕° ☆° °◇ °° °✕

✕° ☆° ◇° ◇° ☆° °□ □° °☆ ◇° °° °✕

◇° °□ °□ °☆ °☆ ☆° °° ◇° . ✕° °□

□° °✕ °O °° °□ °☆ °° °✕ ◇° ☆° □° □°

✕° ☆° ◇° ◇° °° °✕ °◇ °◇ °✕ ✕° □° ☆° °° ✕°

°° ✕° °□ °☆ °✕ °☆ ◇° °° ✕° °◇ °° °° ✕° °□

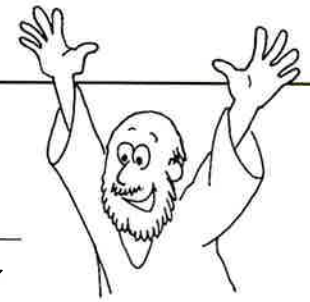
°☆ ☆° °° ◇° □° °□ °□ °□ °□ °◇ °° ☆° °O °° ,

°° ✕° °° °O °✕ °✕ °O °□ °° °◇ °☆ °□

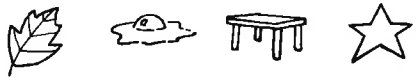
✕° ☆° °◇ °◇ °O y °° ✕° ☆° °O °° .

The son decided to go back to his father and tell him he was not worthy to be called his son. What did his father say?

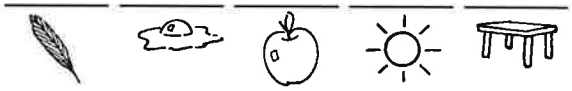
Use the first letter of each object to fill in the blanks.



"... _____ _____ _____ , _____



have a _____ _____ _____ _____ _____



and celebrate. For this _____ _____ _____ of

_____ _____ _____ _____ was

_____ _____ _____ _____ and is

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ again;

he was _____ _____ _____ _____

and is _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ ..."

Parable of the Prodigal Son

10 MINUTES OF QUALITY TIME

A man had 2 sons; The eldest son worked hard, but the youngest ran off and wasted all his money.

2

When the youngest son came home he said sorry, and even though he did bad things, they had a party to celebrate that he came back home and was alive

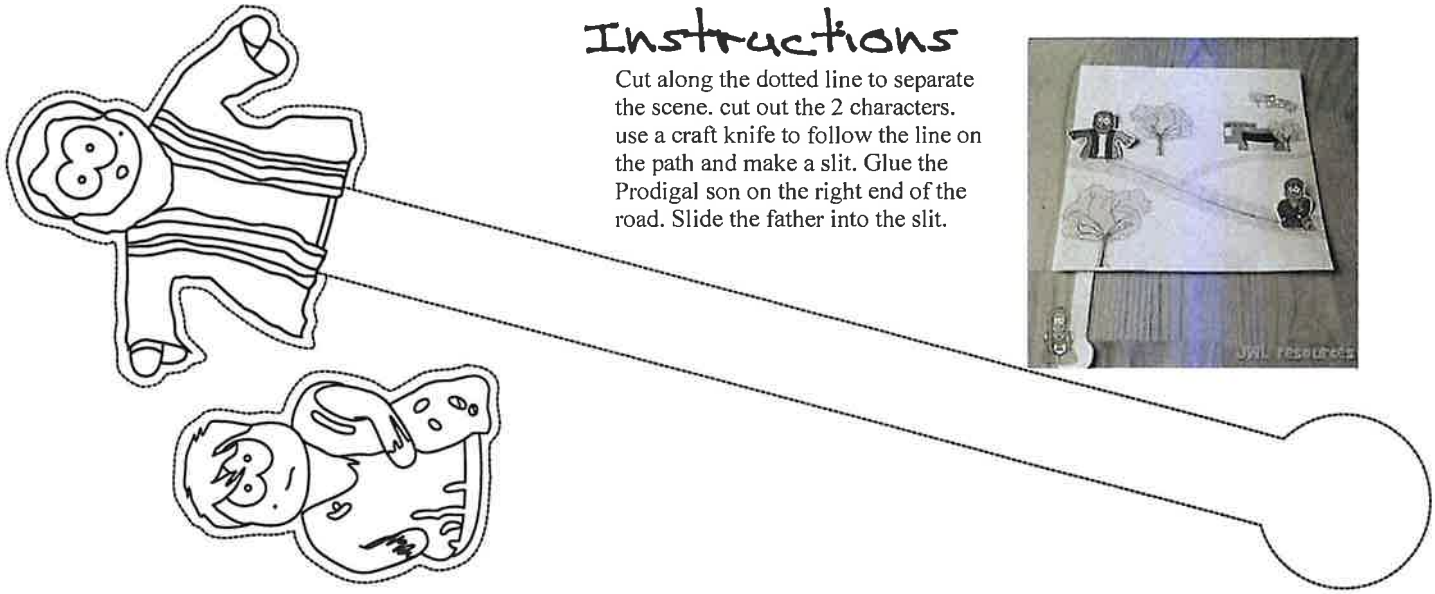
3

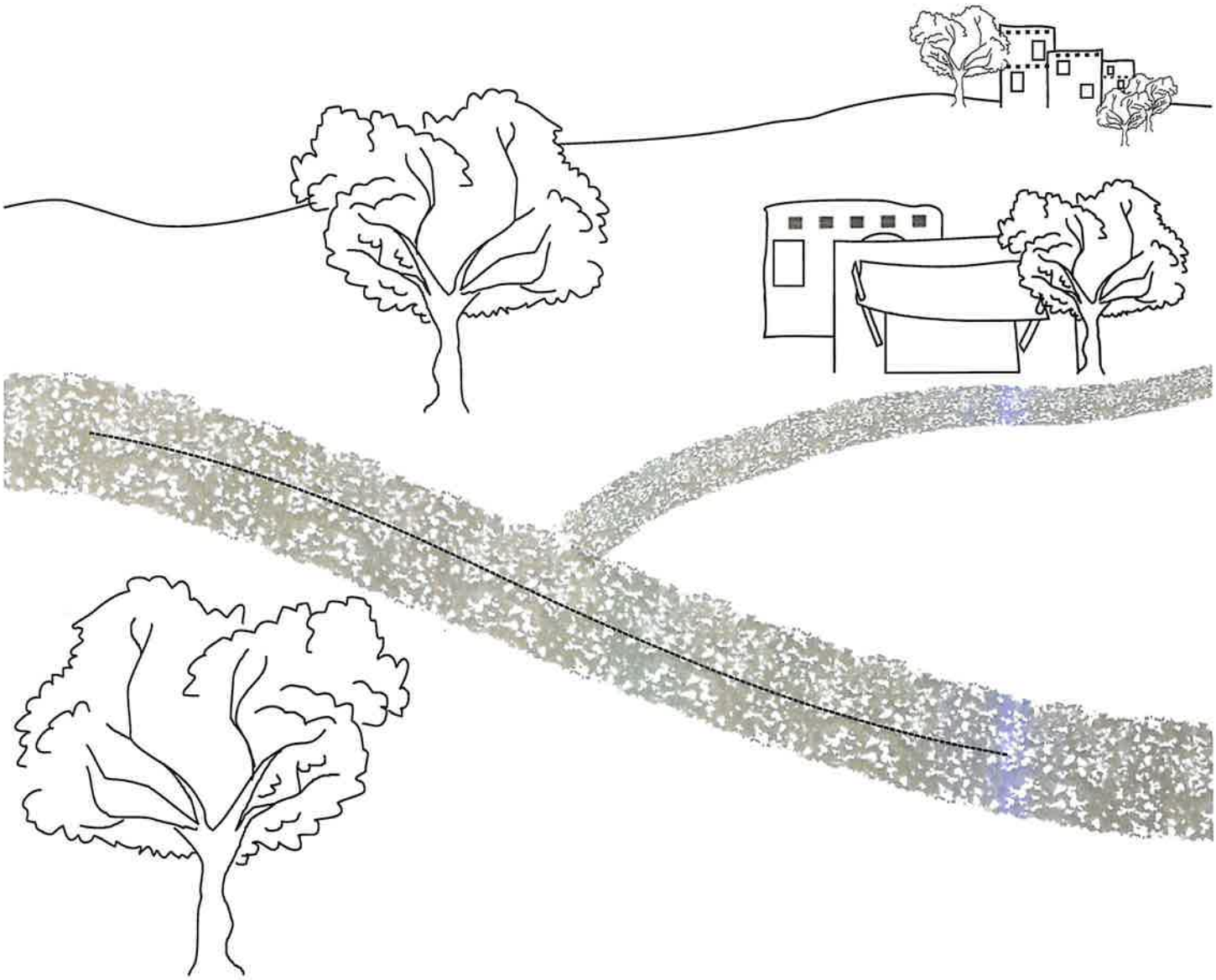
Jesus told this story to explain how God loves us and welcomes us back even when we have done bad

4

Instructions

Cut along the dotted line to separate the scene. cut out the 2 characters. use a craft knife to follow the line on the path and make a slit. Glue the Prodigal son on the right end of the road. Slide the father into the slit.





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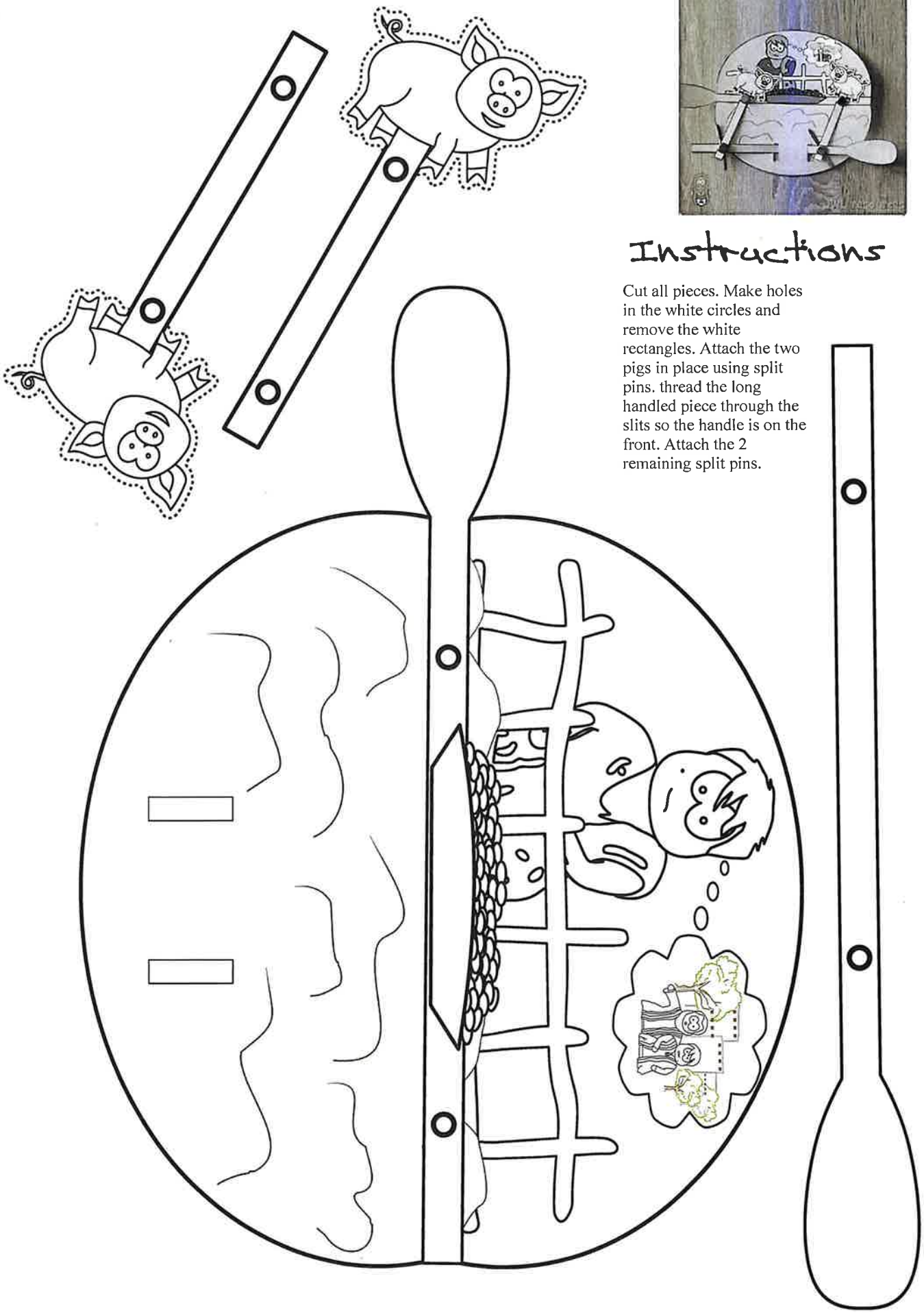
Cut all pieces. Make holes in the white circles and remove the white rectangles. Attach the two pigs in place using split pins. thread the long handled piece through the slits so the handle is on the front. Attach the 2 remaining split pins.