

## From the Bible: The Prodigal Son

Once upon a time there was a man who had two sons. The younger son came to his father one day and said, "Father, give me the share of your money that will belong to me." The father agreed and a few days later his younger son left and travelled to a distant land, where he wasted all the money on frivolous things.

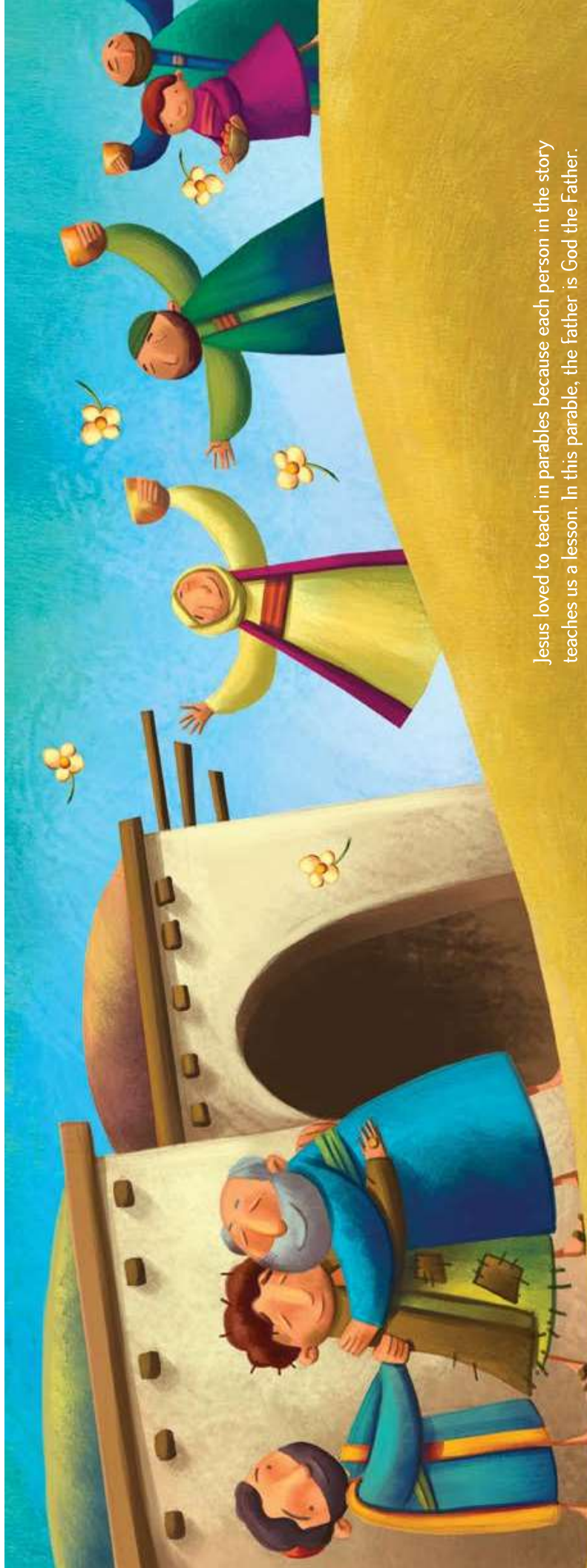
Soon he had no money and was hungry, so he took a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry he wanted to eat the pigs' food.

One day he was feeding the pigs and he thought to himself, "My father's servants have plenty of food to eat and I am starving. I will go back home, beg my father to forgive me, and ask him to take me back, not as a son but as his servant."

The next day he set off and went to his father. When he was still a far way from home, his father saw him on the horizon. The father was filled with joy and he ran to greet his son, wrapping his arms around him and kissing him.







The son said to his father, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Take me back as a servant.” But the father said to his servants, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and prepare it so that we can eat and have a great celebration. For this son of mine was lost but now he is found; he was dead, but now he is alive.”

Adapted from Luke 15:11–32

Jesus loved to teach in parables because each person in the story teaches us a lesson. In this parable, the father is God the Father. He always rejoices when we return to him. He is not angry with his son; he is delighted that the boy has come home.

There may be times in your life when you feel far from God. But never think that God does not want you to return home. Never think that your sins are greater than God’s love.

The son in this story is called the Prodigal Son. Prodigal means “careless and foolish.” We are all careless and foolish at times. When we sin we are being careless and foolish. But when we come to Reconciliation we are like the son returning home to his father, and his father rejoices.