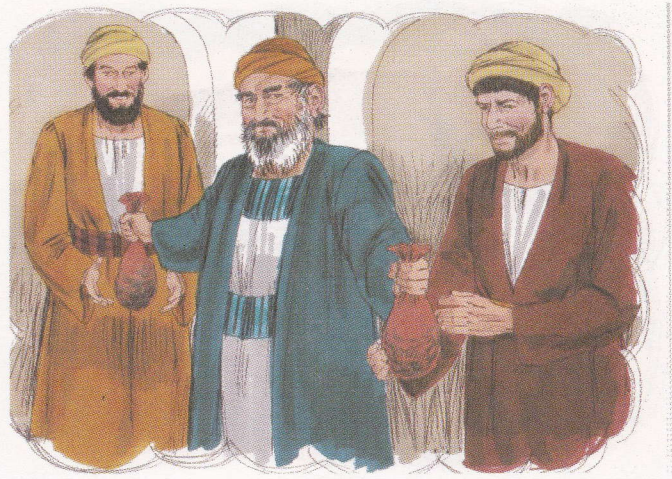


The Lost Son



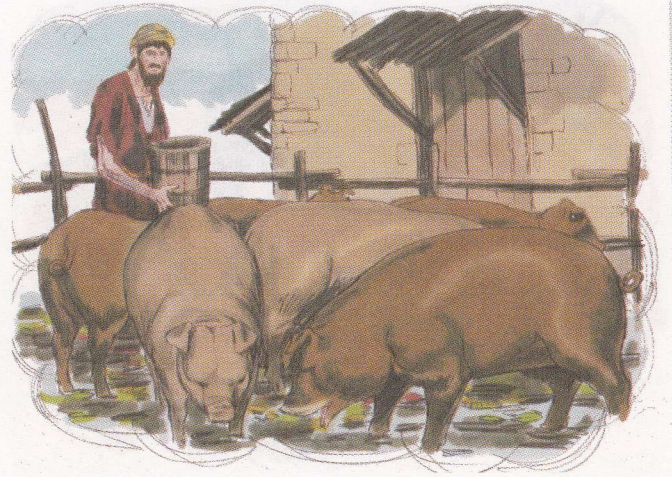
1 The Pharisees criticized Jesus, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and tax collectors and even eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable.



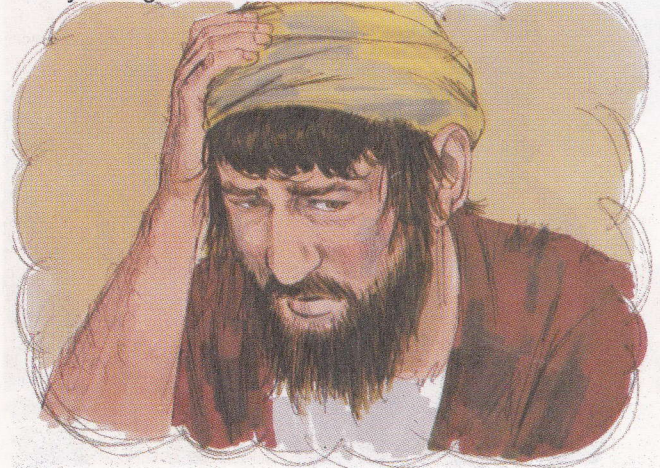
2 "There was a man with two sons. One day the younger one said, 'Father, give me my share of your property.' So the father divided what he owned between the two sons."



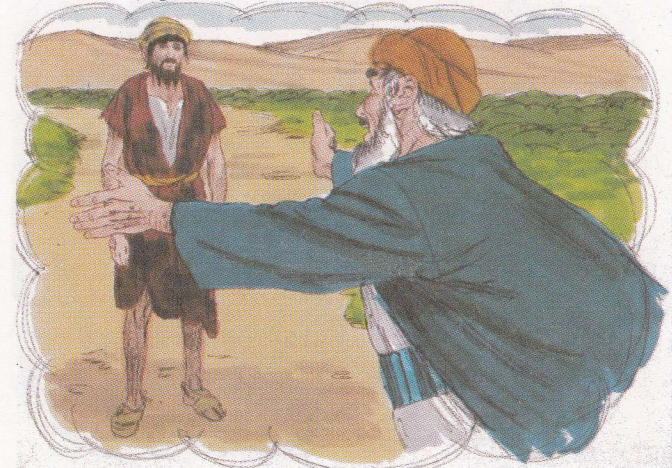
3 "Not long after that, the younger son got all his money together and set off for another country far away. There he wasted all his money in wild living. All his money was gone."



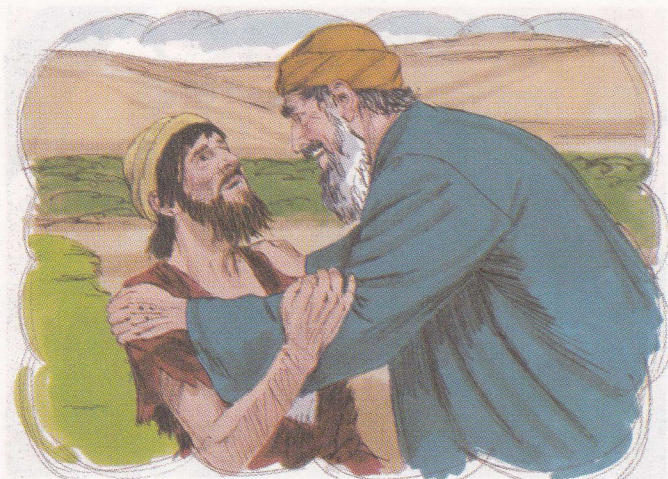
4 "Then a famine came upon that land. The younger son was in need, so he took a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry that he wished he could even eat the food he fed the pigs."



5 "Then he came to his senses. He thought, 'Even my father's workers have food. I'll go back and admit that I've done wrong. Maybe my father will let me be like one of his workers.'"



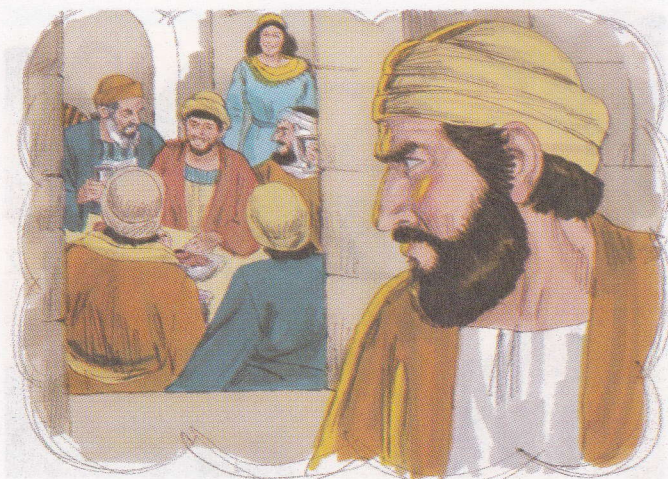
6 "So he went home. His father saw him from a distance and was filled with pity for his son. He ran to him and threw his arms around him and kissed him."



7 “The son said, ‘Father I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”



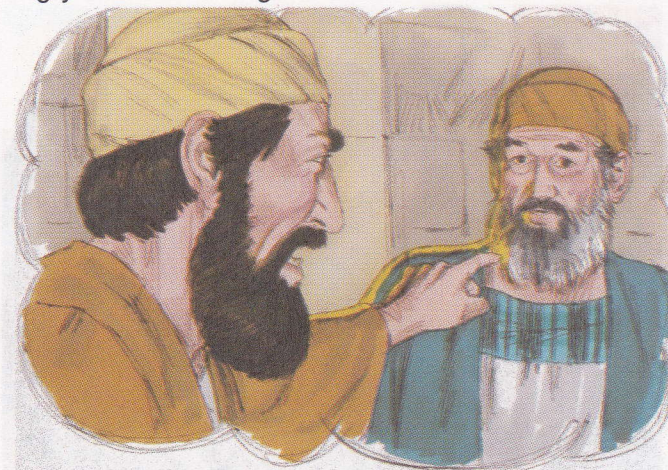
8 “But the father said to the servants, ‘Hurry. Bring the best robe and a ring and sandals for my son, and make a feast. My son was dead and is alive again! He was lost and is found!’”



9 “Now the older son was in the fields at this time. When he heard all the music and dancing, he asked what had happened. When they told him, he was angry and would not go in.”



10 “The father came out and pleaded with him. But the older son said, ‘Look, I have worked all these years for you and never disobeyed you, but you never gave me a party!’”



11 “But my brother has come home after wasting your money and you have killed the best calf and held a great celebration for him!”



12 “The father said, ‘My son, you are always here and can have anything you want. But your brother was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is found. It is fitting that we celebrate.’”