

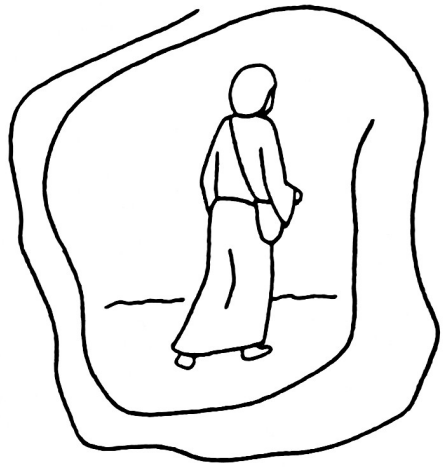
## What about God?

When we sin, we weaken our loving friendship with him.

How can we make things right with God?

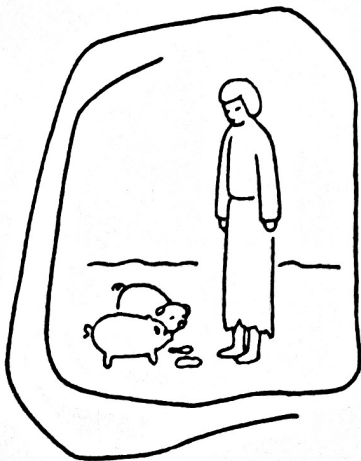
Once upon a time, Jesus told a story about an unhappy young man who lived at home with his family and an older brother.

One day this young man went to his father and asked him for his share of the family money. His father was sad to hear this, but he loved his son very much and wanted him to be happy. He gave the boy his share of the money. In a few days, the boy left his father and brother and family. He took everything that belonged to him.



The boy traveled to a country far away from his home. He spent his money on all of the things he thought would make him happy. Before long his money was gone.

Just about that time there was a big famine in that country. The people were hungry and the boy was hungry, too. One day he found a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry he could have eaten the pigs' food but no one said he could have any!



The young man began to think. He was sorry that he had ever left home. At home even the servants had plenty to eat. Finally he decided to return to his father and tell him he was sorry. He didn't think he deserved to be treated as part of the family anymore. If he were lucky, maybe his father would let him work for him. So he began his long trip back home.

While he was still a long way down the road, his father saw him. The father was so happy that his son was coming home. He ran down the road to meet his son and hugged and kissed him with great joy. The boy lowered his head sadly. He told his father that he had sinned against him and God. The father turned to his servants and said, "Quick! Bring my son some new clothes and a beautiful ring for his finger. Let's have a celebration! My lost son has come home." And the boy knew he was forgiven.



This story is called the parable of the P\_\_\_\_\_ Son.

Jesus told us the story of the Prodigal Son so that we would know that

God is a  
forgiving father



just like the father in the story.

### CAN YOU MATCH THESE?

God is like

the Prodigal Son.

Sometimes I am like

always forgive me.

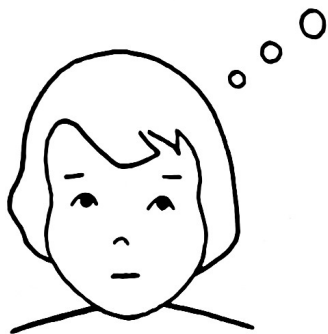
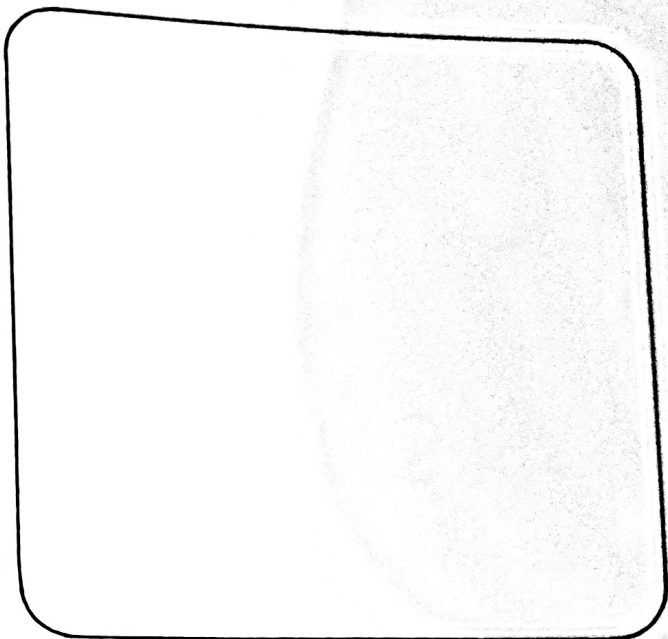
My selfishness is like

the loving father.

God will

going away with  
the money.

Can you think  
of a time  
when you forgave  
someone?



What can you say about that time?

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God will a\_\_\_\_\_ forgive us  
when we are s\_\_\_\_\_ for what we did,  
no matter how bad it was.

This is the beginning of a prayer asking God, our Father, to forgive us.  
What else would you like to say to God?

Dear Father,

I am really sorry for not loving you and my brothers and sisters the way I should.

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Some of these words may help you.

forgive

help

others

love

better

Jesus