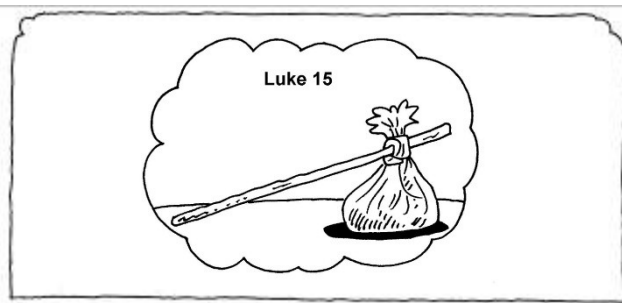


PARABLE: prodigal son

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Illustrated by Richard Gunther



Jesus often used stories, called Parables, to help us understand something important about God and how best to live. We can learn many things from them.



Jesus told this story: "A farmer had two sons. They all lived and worked on the family farm. Someday, when the father died, the sons would share all the money he had made."



One day the youngest one said, "Father give me the money I will inherit when you die. I want to see the world and have a good time, now."



The father gave the youngest son his share of the inheritance money, praying that his son would spend it wisely and live a good life.



The boy had fun spending lots of money on big parties and presents for his friends. Soon all the money was gone. He didn't even have a house to live in.



He had to work looking after pigs. It was a dirty, smelly job. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pig's food. The boy thought about his father and was sad.



"I will go home and be my father's servant," he said. "My father gives his workers good food." The father was always watching for his son to come home and he ran to meet him.



"I am very happy because my son has come home! We will have a feast," said the father. Jesus was reminding us that God is always waiting for us to come to Him.