

# *PARENT'S DISCUSSION GUIDE*

## *JESUS' PARABLES*

### *The Prodigal Son – Luke 15:11-32*

- Read Luke 15:11-32 and/or watch the “creative story telling” video using the link provided.
  
- **Discuss with your kids the following truths:**
  - PARABLES = An earthly story with a heavenly meaning
  
  - Jesus used the story (parable) of the “Prodigal Son” (that means reckless or wild) to show us how our choices have consequences and how God can forgive us even when we mess up.
  
  - **Younger son** – Many people live their lives to please themselves; this always leads to a place of need and loneliness. The best thing that this crazy son did was realize that everything his father taught him was true and willingly return to him. It took a lot of courage and humility for him to return home, but he was glad that he went back, apologized and did the right thing.
  
  - **Older son** – The older brother was angry because he tried to do the right thing and saw his brother get rewarded for coming home. He was upset because he never left and did not feel like he was appreciated as much. The father tried to calm him down by pointing out that the older brother was being selfish with his attitude. That if he loved his younger brother he too would be excited that his brother came home. It is interesting that both of these brothers struggled with selfishness, it just looked different in their lives.
  
  - **The Father** – in this story the father represents God. God is the one who gives good gifts to his children. Sometimes, we take the good things God has given us and we use them in bad ways. But everyone who repents and turns to God for help will find forgiveness and hope with God.
  
- **Questions:**
  - Why did the younger son go and do all kinds of crazy stuff?
  - Why did the Father forgive his son? Why did he welcome him back? Do you think that God will welcome and forgive you when you sin?
  - Why was the older brother angry? What did he need to learn?