

# Lesson 35



5-2-2021  
LEADER GUIDE

## THE PRODIGAL SON

LUKE 15:11-32

### GOAL

To help children understand that God loves us, accepts us, and longs for us to have a relationship with Him, no matter how dirty, sinful, and shameful we are.

### CHARACTERS

**Prodigal Son:** The younger of two sons who asked his father for money and then left home. After he wasted all of his money, he returned home hungry and discouraged.

**Oldest Son:** The older brother of the prodigal son. He is jealous of the lavish attention bestowed upon his younger brother.

**Father:** He allowed his son to leave, but he waited eagerly for him to come back. When he returned, the Father welcomed him with open arms.

### MEMORY VERSE

**Luke 15:24:** "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.

### MEMORY VERSE MEANING

**Luke 15:24:** This story illustrates the relationship we have with God. Despite our daily failings, God loves us and wants us to be with Him. No matter what we do, God loves us and wants a relationship with us.



## OVERVIEW

**Read over Luke 15:11-32:** Jesus told a story of a boy who asked his father for money and then left home to live wildly. He quickly spent all of his money and became discouraged and nearly starved. Finally, he returned to his father, only to discover that his father was waiting for his return. The story shows God's great love for us.

## SUGGESTIONS

**This story is one of the most moving and powerful descriptions of God's love that we find anywhere in Scripture.**

**1. Youngest Son:** He was greedy, reckless, and disrespectful at first, but he came to realize how good he had it with his father.

**2. Oldest Son:** When his brother returned, he was jealous of the attention his brother received. He also was judgmental about his brother's behavior while he was gone. What he didn't realize was that while the younger son was away, the older son received all of the good things the father had to offer. Because the older son made good choices, he didn't have to suffer the way the younger son did.

**3. Father:** No matter how his sons behaved, he was always giving, caring, forgiving, and loving. He provided wonderful blessings on both of them despite their moments of disrespect toward him.

This story represents our relationship with God. Even though we don't deserve anything from God, He gives us the best He has to offer: grace, mercy, and love. No matter how far away we may stray, nothing makes God happier than for us to turn back to Him and regain a relationship with Him.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 1



**Q1a:** What did the younger son want his father to give him?

**A1:** The son asked for his inheritance.

**Q1b:** If you became a grown-up tomorrow, what do you think would be fun and what would be hard?

**TN:** Are the hard things the students mention the types of things responsible, successful adults have to do? Talk to the students about the things they would like and dislike about being an adult, pointing out that some of the fun things may not be what responsible adults do.

### SLIDE 2



**Q2a:** Why was the father concerned for his son?

**A2:** He was not prepared to live responsibly.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 3



**Q3a:** On what kinds of things did the younger son spend his money?

**A3:** Girls, drinking, and parties

**Q3b:** If you were given a million dollars, what would you do with it?

**TN:** The youngest son was given a large amount of money, and he spent all of it foolishly. This question isn't meant to get students to provide answers in order to shame them, but it can help to point out how easy it is to get carried away with buying things without thinking of how we will survive once all the money is gone.

### SLIDE 4



**Q4a:** Without his money, what did the son become?

**A4:** An outcast in a foreign land

**Q4b:** What is the coolest thing your best friend owns?

**TN:** Let students respond, then ask them if they would still want to be friends with this person if he or she didn't have that cool thing? True friends like each other for who they are as people, not for the things they have.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

### SLIDE 5



**Q5a:** What did the son get a job doing?

**A5:** Feeding pigs

**Q5b:** What is the worst job you can think of having to do?

**TN:** Just like there are some people who truly enjoy taking care of pigs, there are people who may truly enjoy the jobs the students suggest. This part of the story isn't telling us that people who care for pigs are gross, it's meant to point out that for a Jew to take this type of job, he or she must be desperate.

### SLIDE 6



**Q6a:** What did the son decide to do?

**A6:** He decided to go back home.

**Q6b:** Have you ever had a plan that didn't work out?

**TN:** When the son decided to go home, it meant he would have to admit that he was wrong and that his plans had failed. Such situations can be hard to deal with, but, especially in the case of the prodigal son, it is necessary to admit defeat and to humble ourselves and ask for help. When we do things that lead us away from God, we should ask for forgiveness and ask God to help us get back on track.



## QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



**Q7a:** Who ran out to meet the son?

**A7:** The father

SLIDE 8



**Q8a:** What did the father give his son when he returned?

**A8:** The best clothes, the fancy ring, fine shoes, and a party.

SLIDE 9



**Q9a:** Who was unhappy with the younger son's return?

**A9:** The oldest son



MEMORY  
VERSE

**Luke 15:24:** "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.

BIG IDEA

No matter what we do, God loves us and wants to have a relationship with us.

CLOSING  
PRAYER

Dear God, sometimes it's hard to believe how much You love us. Thank You, that like the father did for his son in this story, You love and forgive us, no matter how far we've strayed. Help us to see the blessings you provide and not take them for granted. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

# THE PRODIGAL SON

## CROSSWORD

## ANSWER KEY

### Across

1. When the son lost all his money, he got a job feeding **(Pigs)**.
5. The young son wasted all his money on girls, drinking and **(Parties)**.
7. The father lavished his son with fine shoes, clothes and a fancy **(Ring)**.
8. His job was embarrassing because doing it made him **(Unclean)**.
10. After losing all of his inheritance and working a dirty job, where did the son decide to go? **(Home)**

### Down

2. When the youngest son left home, what did he ask his father for? **(Inheritance)**
3. Who ran to the son on the path? **(Father)**
4. When the son returned, the father decided to throw a huge **(Party)**.
6. Who was not happy about the son's return? **(Brother)**
9. In the story Jesus is comparing **(God)** to the father, and us to the son.

# THE PRODIGAL SON

**Luke 15:24**

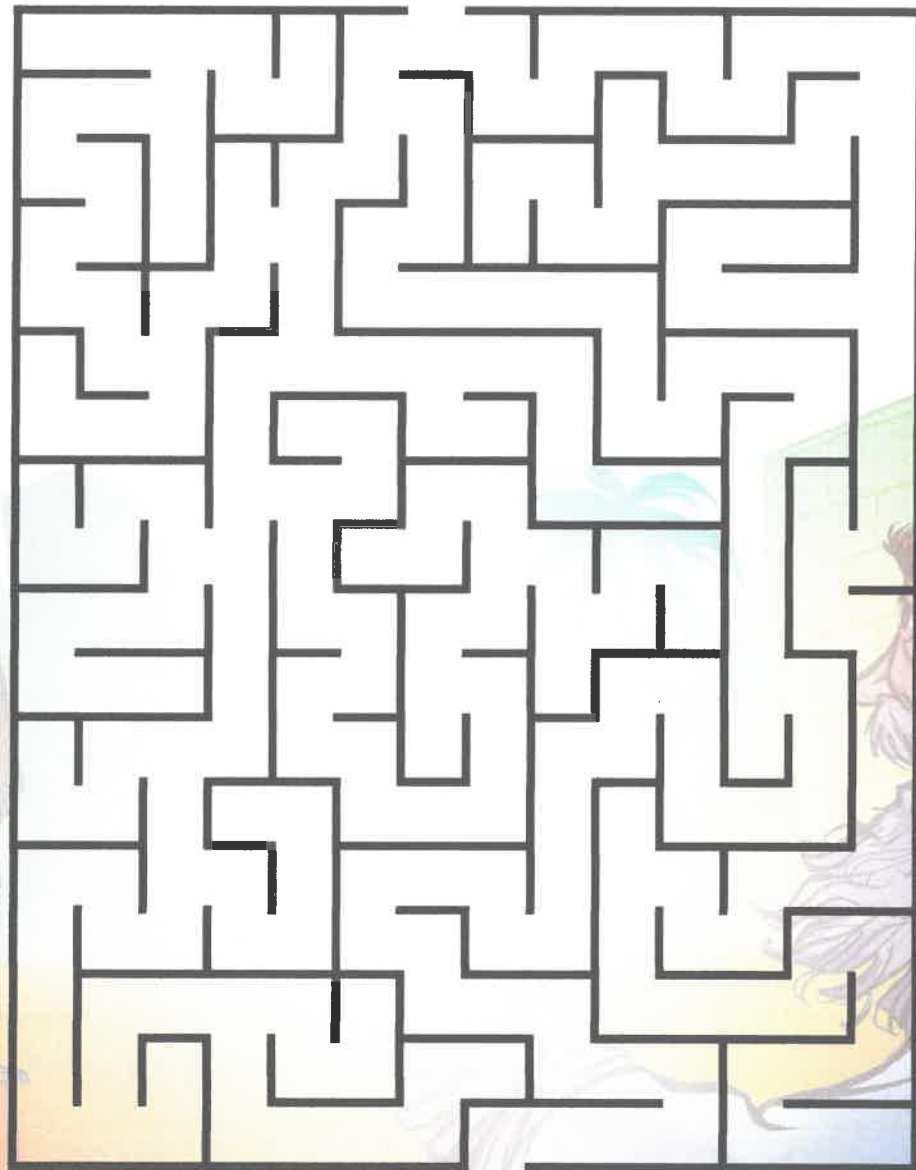
"For this my son was dead, and is alive again;  
he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate.



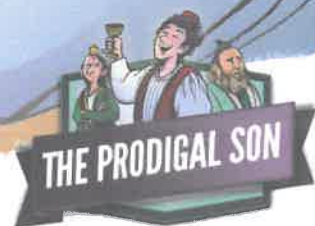
# THE PRODIGAL SON

Lead the son to his loving father.

FINISH

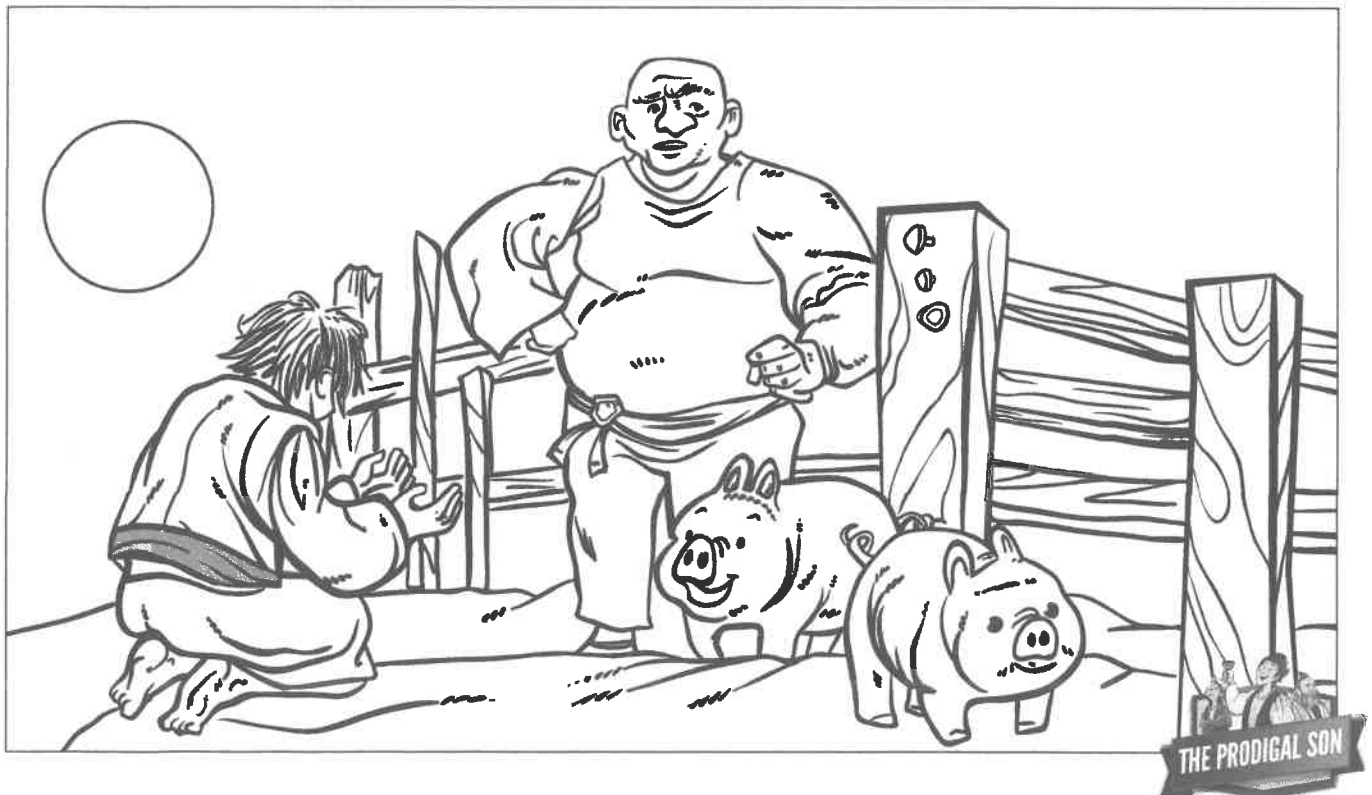


START



# THE PRODIGAL SON

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.





# THE PRODIGAL SON



Discover the hidden words.

F	H	J	H	N	J	D	F	G	B	I	P	A	Z	X
A	K	P	E	E	R	Q	G	X	N	S	A	P	Y	E
T	G	A	S	O	N	O	Z	H	V	F	R	X	E	B
H	M	R	H	O	M	E	E	W	S	Y	T	A	R	A
E	W	A	T	A	B	R	P	I	G	S	Y	O	Z	E
R	U	B	S	G	I	E	A	C	P	N	T	P	Z	K
E	N	L	Y	T	N	K	L	J	B	H	I	I	C	U
E	T	E	A	H	D	I	T	O	E	J	N	D	W	E
B	R	N	A	T	S	C	R	R	B	W	J	S	A	L
J	C	P	S	V	G	X	W	H	N	E	S	Z	O	T
E	Y	V	Y	J	F	X	X	U	S	Z	T	M	F	N
U	L	H	T	C	B	G	S	U	V	Z	G	W	L	I
W	C	R	E	G	C	K	S	B	C	F	Q	T	C	H
L	I	S	S	P	O	A	N	X	L	G	P	P	V	F
Q	Y	X	Z	U	H	D	M	U	N	C	L	E	A	N

## Word Bank

PIGS  
SON  
PARTY  
RING

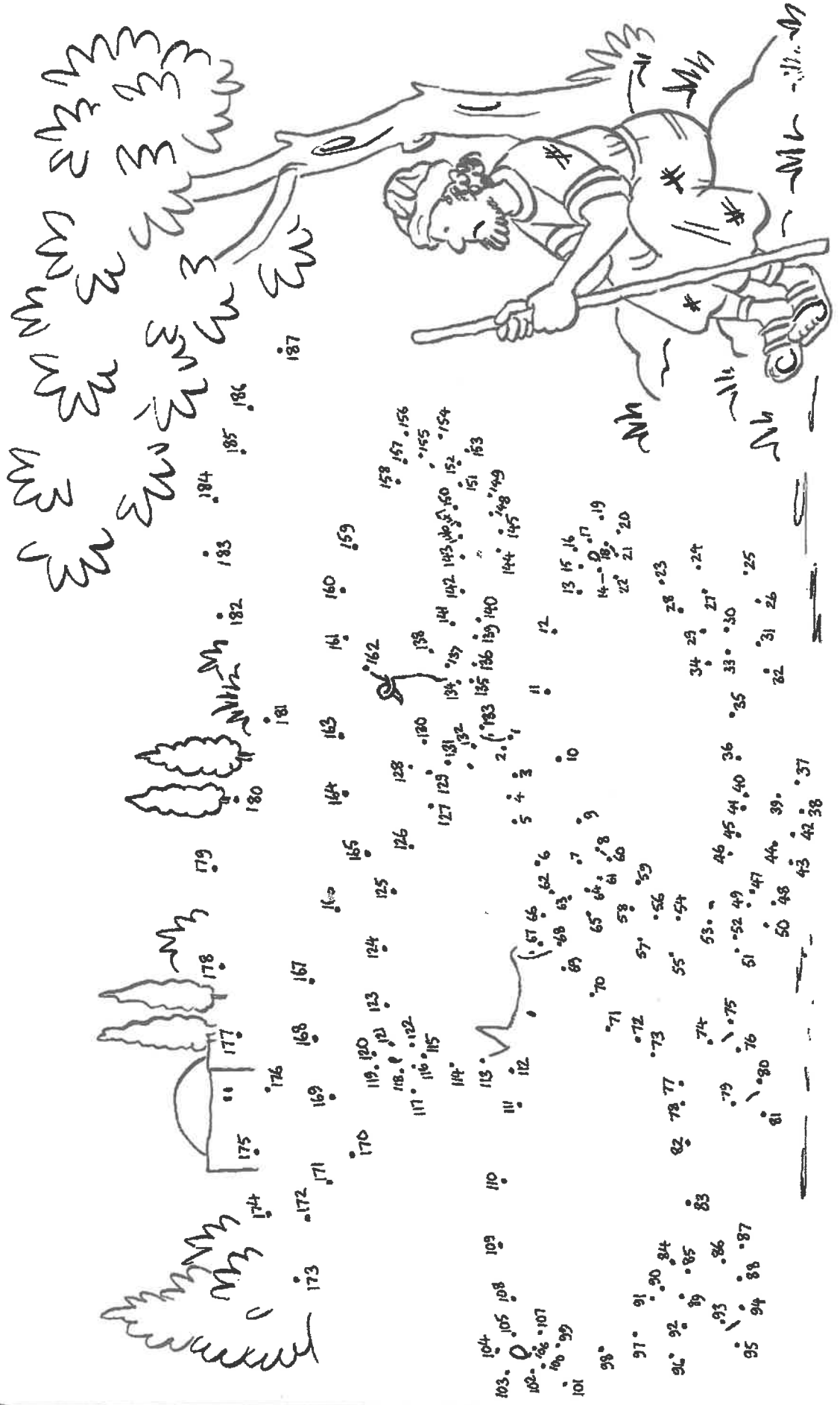
UNCLEAN  
HOME  
INHERITANCE  
FATHER

BROTHER  
JESUS  
PARABLE  
GOD



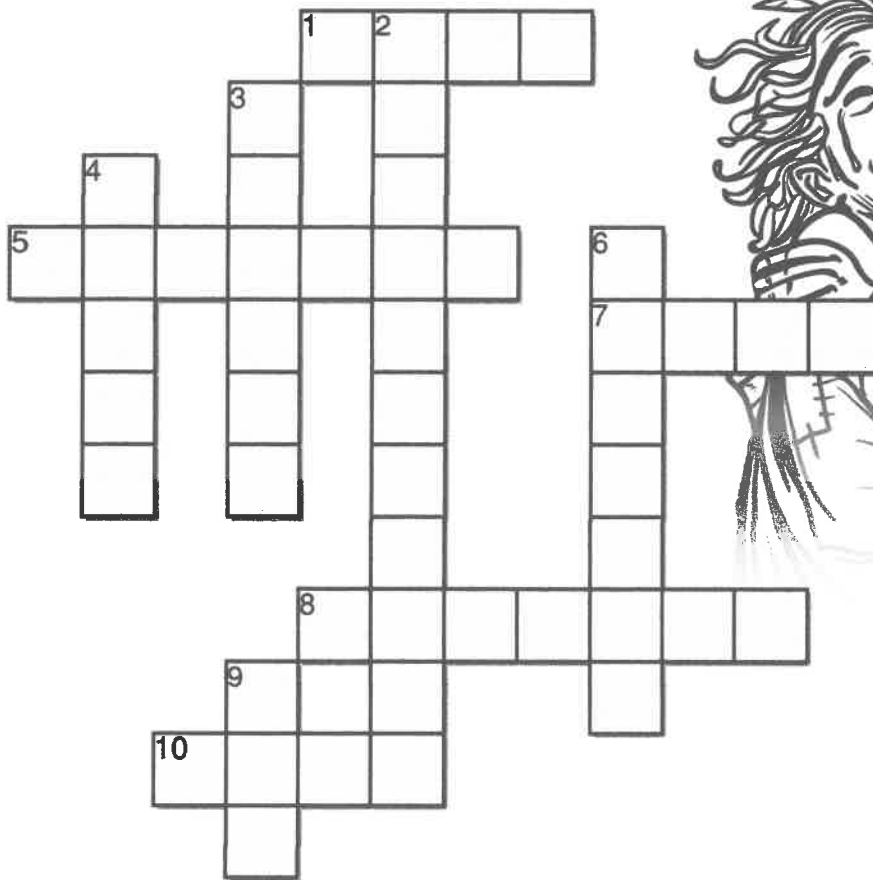
# The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Connect the dots & color the picture!



# THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15:11-32



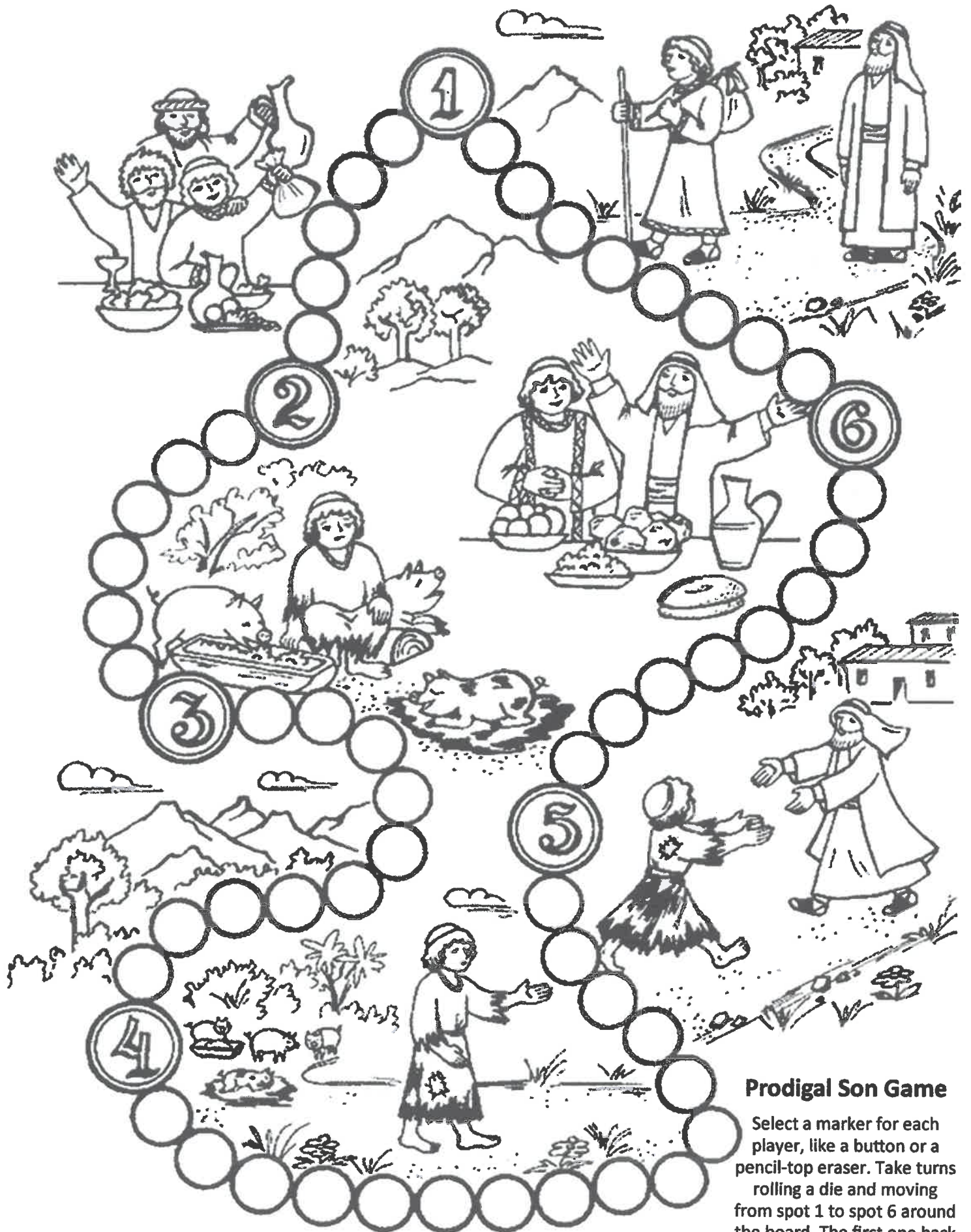
## Across

1. When the son lost all his money, he got a job feeding \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The young son wasted all his money on girls, drinking and \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The father lavished his son with fine shoes, clothes and a fancy \_\_\_\_\_.
8. His job was embarrassing because doing it made him \_\_\_\_\_.
10. After losing all of his inheritance and working a dirty job, where did the son decide to go?

## Down

2. When the youngest son left home, what did he ask his father for?
3. Who ran to the son on the path?
4. When the son returned, the father decided to throw a huge \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Who was not happy about the son's return?
9. In the story Jesus is comparing \_\_\_\_\_ to the father, and us to the son.





### Prodigal Son Game

Select a marker for each player, like a button or a pencil-top eraser. Take turns rolling a die and moving from spot 1 to spot 6 around the board. The first one back to spot 1 is the winner!