



LENTEN BOOK
SERIES

BOOK 3-PRODIGAL SON

LESSON TO ACCOMPANY THE MINI BOOK

To assemble the mini book: fold the paper on all lines (dotted & solid), then fold the paper in half width wise, cut on the solid line, fold book together. Encourage your children if they would like to color the book as you read it together.

Cover Page

Explain: We are now getting closer to starting Great Lent!

Ask: Does anyone remember what a parable is?

Answer: It is a special story with a lesson that Jesus taught us in the Gospels.

Explain: Most parables teach Christians a lesson about good and bad.

Explain: We are going to listen and read about a family. A father has two sons and we will learn how he is patient, forgiving, and loving.

Page 1

Explain: Jesus started telling this story by saying that there was a father who had 2 sons. The younger of the sons asks his father for his inheritance.

Ask: Do you know what an inheritance is?

Answer: An inheritance is money or things that a mom and dad give to their children when they get older.

Explain: Some people have a lot of money and things. Some people have animals that they can give to their children. Other people have very few things that they can give. When you run out of your inheritance, or money/things your parents give you, you do not get any more. In the time of Jesus they had certain monies and things that each family gave to their children. You normally would not take your inheritance unless you got married or were going to go somewhere far away from your family.

Ask: Why do you think the younger son asked for his inheritance/money?

Answers can vary but can focus around: he wanted to leave or move away; he wanted to do something else; or that he did not like being at home.

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Explain: So the younger son gets his money. He leaves his home, that he lived at with his family.

Ask: What do you think or remember that he did with the money/inheritance?

You can write their answers down on a chalk or white board.

Read: *Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he wasted his money in a silly way. And when he had spent everything, a great famine, or lack of food, came to that country, and he began to be poor and in need. (Adaptation to Luke 15:13-14)*

Ask: What happened to the younger son?

Explain: He went to a far away country and he used all of his money. He was not careful and he used it for silly things, wasting his money. He was not saving any of it.

Ask: What happened after he wasted his money/inheritance?

Answer: A great famine came, which means that there was not enough food and water for everyone. Then the younger son did not have any money for food or water and he needed help. He had used all of his money/inheritance. He did not have any more money.

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Explain: After the younger son runs out of money, he realizes he will need to get a job to support himself. So he gets a job taking care of pigs.

Ask: How do you think the job of taking care of pigs is? Is it similar or different from the younger son's life before the famine?

Answer: The job of taking care of pigs can be very dirty and smelly, especially if you are not used to living on a farm or taking care of animals. It is also a very difficult job. There is a lot of hard work that you have to do to take care of animals.

The new job of taking care of the pigs is very different from the life that the younger son used to have. Before, he had a lot of free time and could go anywhere he wanted. He could eat and drink anything he wanted. Now, he had a job, but he was still very hungry.

Explain: While the younger son was feeding the pigs and taking care of them, do you know what happened? He was so hungry he thought of eating the food scraps that the pigs were eating. It is at this moment that he realizes that he should not have left his home, his father, or his brother.

Page 4

Ask: After the younger son thought about eating the pig food, do you know what he decided?

Answers: He decided to go home to his father and brother.

Ask: When you do something wrong, what do you think will happen?

Answers may vary, but can range from a punishment, feeling sad or worried about the mistake, or that no one will know that we made a mistake.

Explain: The younger son decided to go home and he thought when he got home his father might treat him like a worker/servant. He did not expect his father to welcome him or be happy that he used all his money. He was a little worried what would happen but he decided that it was the best decision.

When he got home do you know what happened? His father welcomed him with a hug and was so happy to have his son back. Even though the younger son was wasteful and extravagant (this is how to explain the word prodigal) with his money/inheritance, his dad gave his lost son new clothes, a special ring, and a special party.

The older son was very jealous and angry that his brother wasted his money and lived without care. The older brother was at home working and helping to take care of the family. He should be full of joy and happiness that his brother has returned.

Page 5 & 6

Ask: When someone else makes a mistake what do you think we should do?

Answer: We should forgive them.

Explain: We should forgive because that is what God does for us. Jesus told us this story because the younger prodigal son makes a lot of mistakes and wastes a lot of money. We are like him. We are also like the older brother. The older brother becomes angry and jealous of his younger brother who has done those things.

Ask: When are some times that you have been like the younger son and made mistakes like him?

When are some times that you have been like the older son and made mistakes like him?

Answers may vary but make sure to communicate that we all make mistakes and sin. Our response to sin and mistakes has to be repentance and forgiveness. This is normal but something that we always need to work on.

Explain: No matter what mistakes we make, whether we are like either son, we always need to remember that our God is a God of love. He will always forgive us if we repent and turn away from our bad ways. This is an example of how we should always be with our friends, family, and all people.

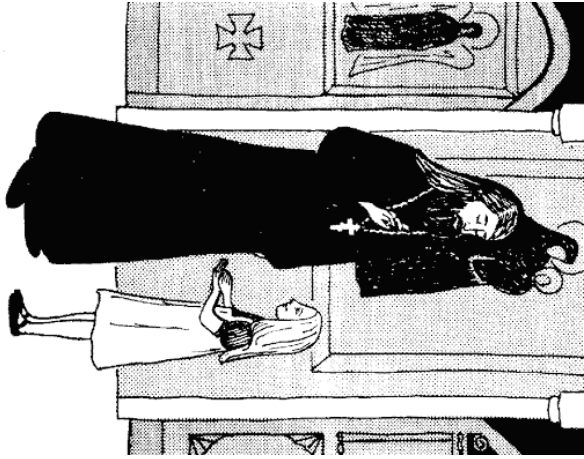
Back Cover

Write child's name on the book (if child can't write you can help them).

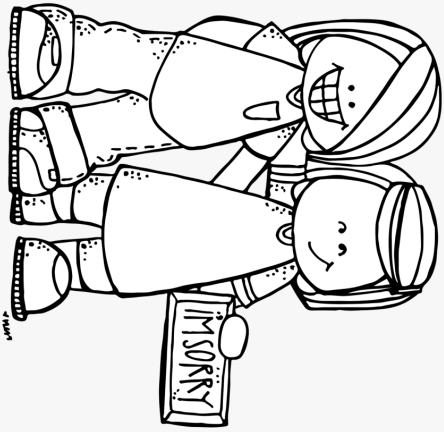


This book belongs
to the
Servant of God:

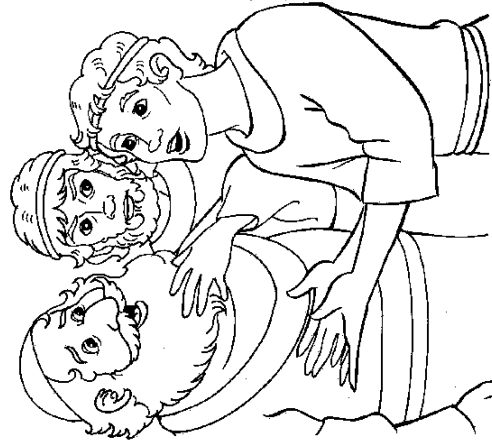
Repentance



Forgiveness



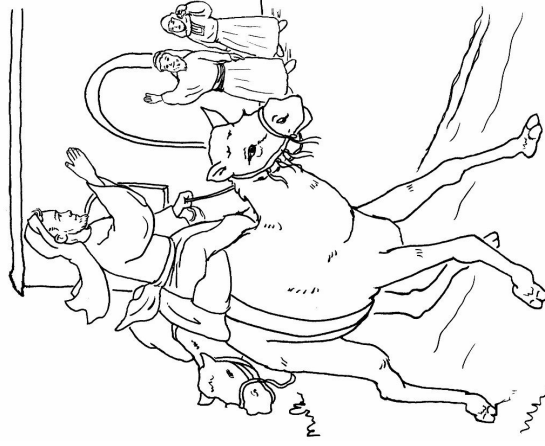
Prodigal Son
LENTEN SERIES BOOK 3



A Father had 2 sons



**One son takes his
money and leaves his
family**



**He runs out of all
of his money.**



**He returns home and
his father forgives him
and has a party.**

