



Sunday, March 27, 2022
God Loves Me * Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32



What's the Big Idea?

God Loves Me No Matter What

While Jesus was teaching, he told this story. There was once a father who had two sons. The younger son, knowing that half of what his father had would one day be his, asked for his inheritance early. The father gave his son half of his money, and off the son went to live on his own. He wasted the money on expensive things he didn't need, and soon he was broke. He found himself with no money, and the only job he could find was feeding pigs. He was so hungry, he would even try to sneak some of the pigs' food! He remembered his home, where everyone, even the servants, had plenty to eat. He thought, "I know I've been a bad son, but maybe my father will at least give me a job. I'll go home and beg." When the father saw his son coming up the road, he ran to meet him and wrapped him in a big hug. The son started to give the apology he'd been practicing the whole way there, but his father interrupted by shouting, "Quick! Bring out my best clothes and prepare a big feast because my son has come home!" And they started the celebration. But the older son heard the commotion from the fields and asked one of the servants what was happening. When he learned it was a party for his little brother, the same little brother who had left the family and wasted his money, he was furious and refused to go. His father came out to invite him in to the party, but the older son complained, "All this time I have been working like a dog for you and you never threw me a party. Why should he get a party after all he's put you through?" His father reminded him, "Son, everything that I have is yours because you are always with me. Every day is like a party because you are here with me! But your brother was lost, and now that he's returned, we have to celebrate."

We don't always get it right, yet God loves us no matter what. No. Matter. What. Period!



Read It

Find this week's story on page 378 of your Spark Story Bible.



Talk About It

Who would you be in this story? (The father, the younger brother, or the older brother?) Why?

Do you think the father is fair? Is love always fair?

How do you think the younger brother felt at the beginning of the story? The middle? The end?

How is God like the father in this story?

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for always inviting us to come and celebrate with you, even when we've made mistakes, even when we're angry, even when we don't think there's anything to celebrate. Remind us of your love that is too big to imagine. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Try It

Create a home to remind you that God is always inviting you home to celebrate. What does God's home look like?



drydenartcity.wordpress.com/2011/12/30/first-grade-reconstructed-house

Affirm It

Throughout Lent, enjoy a weekly affirmation for reflection.
What does it mean to you?

God loves me no matter what.

I Am Worthy

Prodigal Son Scramble. How much do you know about the prodigal son? Unscramble the words below to complete the sentences. Then write each circled letter on the blank line to solve the riddle!

The prodigal son had to work with these animals:

○ _____
GIPS

This person was overjoyed when the prodigal son returned:

○ _____
THERAF

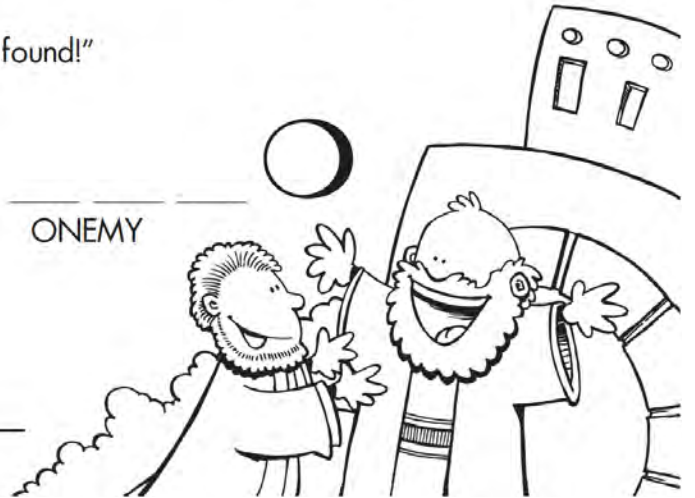
Who was jealous of the prodigal son?

○ _____
ROBTHE

"My son was _____ and has been found!"
SOTL

The prodigal son was hungry after he ran out of:

○ _____
ONEMY



His father ran and
threw his arms
around him.