

# Family Page



This fourth week of Lent reminds us that the beautiful sacrifice of our Savior is his gift of forgiveness brought about through the Father's love. This is a week, then, for reconciliation. There are several ways you can make it special in your own family.

1. Have each member of the family make one list of some things he or she has done that need forgiveness and a second list of some things others have done that he or she would like to forgive.
2. Each person is to tack his or her list in a place where it can be seen and read every morning. The first list will help you to remember how loving and forgiving the Father in heaven has always been to you; the second will give you a chance to practice being loving and forgiving to others.

3. Practice and learn the prayer below.
4. At the end of the week, plan a family reconciliation service. Open with the Lord's Prayer, emphasizing "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive..." Then each member in turn will read from his or her list while the family responds, "Jesus, help us to be more forgiving."
5. Your ceremony can be as brief or elaborate as you care to make it. Conclude with the Coming-Home Prayer below.



## ..... COMING-HOME PRAYER



**Father, for all the mistakes of this week, please forgive us. For the times we have been angry and unforgiving, please forgive us. Help us to be as kind and loving as Jesus, remembering that you forgive us as we forgive others. Thank you for welcoming us back to your love. Amen**

Here's a special Prayer for you!

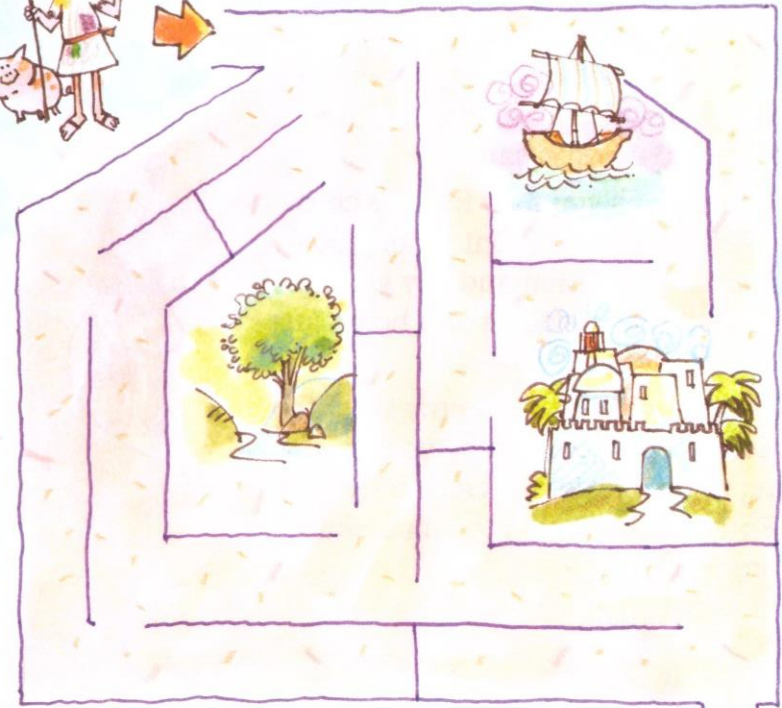


The Prodigal Son is sorry that he left home. He wants to go home. Will you help him find the way?



# explaining GOD'S WORD

Fourth Sunday of Lent (C) • Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 • March 27, 2022



# “My Son Was Lost and Is Found”

In today's gospel Jesus tells a story of a boy who left home, wasted all his money, then came back to his father to say that he was sorry.

The father didn't scold him for doing such a foolish thing. He was so happy to see his son that he hugged him and gave him a party.

Sometimes you may forget about God and God's ways. But when you remember God again and say you are sorry, God will welcome you home just like the father in the story.

Jesus wants you to know that God is a forgiving Father. Since you are trying to be like Jesus, who follows in his Father's ways, you too must learn to forgive others.



Are you mad at someone?

**FORGIVE!**

Do you think your parents were unfair in punishing you for something?

**FORGIVE!**

Did someone get angry with you today?

**FORGIVE!**

Today is the day, and this is the week, to imitate our Father in heaven. Be loving and forgiving and kind to others just as the Father is to you.

Just like the Prodigal Son, you are planning to go home to a loving Father. Circle those things you will want to pack. Cross out the things you will leave behind.



A cartoon illustration of a girl with brown hair in pigtails, wearing a pink and white striped shirt. She is standing next to a brown suitcase and looking thoughtful. Surrounding her are several colorful rectangular labels with text: "Lying" (green), "Pouting" (orange), "Sorrow for Sins" (yellow), "Temper" (yellow), "Kindness" (orange), "Forgiveness" (yellow), "Love" (orange), "Prayer" (green), "Selfishness" (red), and "Obedience" (orange). The labels are arranged in a circle around the girl and the suitcase.