

saint mary's press

The
Catholic Children's Bible

**The
Forgiving
Father**

Big Book



Valerie Ellery

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See Luke 15:11-32 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* for the full story.

The Son Returns

The son said, "Back at my father's house, even the workers had plenty to eat."

At that time he made a plan to return home.

He said, "I will tell my father that I am sorry for my sins."

The son headed for home.





He hoped that his father would forgive him.

He did not feel **worthy** to be called his father's son.

He thought, "I will ask to be hired as a **servant**."

While the son was still far away, his father saw him coming.

The father was full of **pity** for his son.





Glossary

decided – made a choice

divided – split into parts

famine – not having enough food; starvation

pity – a feeling of sadness for another person

prize – most valuable; best

property – things such as land belonging to a person

reckless – acting in a way that is thoughtless or irresponsible

servant – a person who does duties for someone else

wasted – thrown away or made useless

worthy – of value; of good character

Recommended:

Tell It! Cards

Reinforce comprehension with *The Catholic Children's Bible Tell It! Cards*.



The Forgiving Father

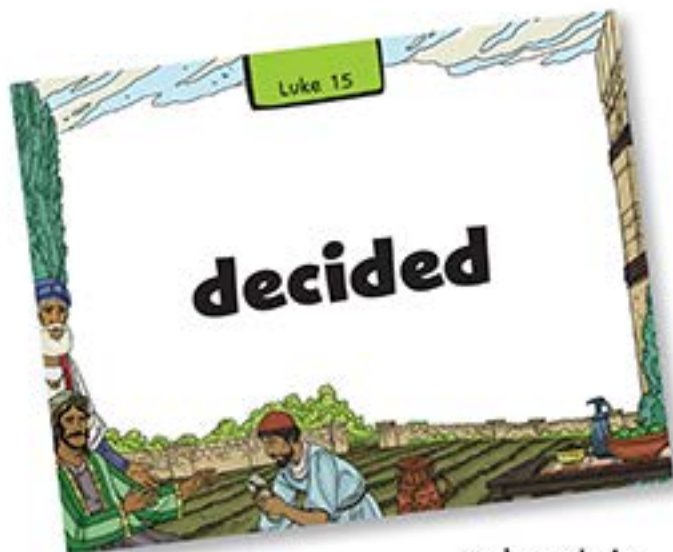
Luke 15

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Vocabulary Cards

Build vocabulary using *The Catholic Children's Bible Vocabulary Cards*.



made a choice

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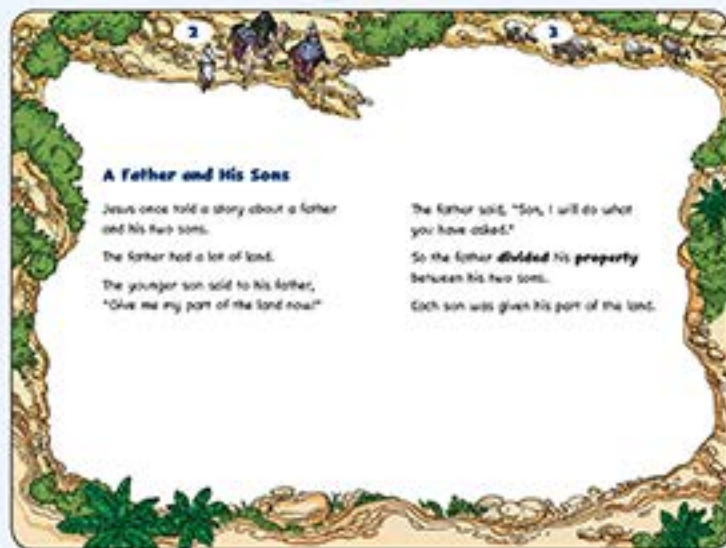


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Level: 2.3
 Word Count: 380
 Reading Level Correlations:
 Guided Reading: J
 DRA: 20
 Lexile®: 680L



A Father and His Sons

Jesus once told a story about a father and his two sons.

The father had a lot of land.

The younger son said to his father, "Give me my part of the land now!"

The father said, "Son, I will do what you have asked."

So the father **divided** his **property** between his two sons.

Each son was given his part of the land.



The Younger Son Leaves

The younger son wanted to leave.

He **decided** to sell his part of the land.

Now he had money!

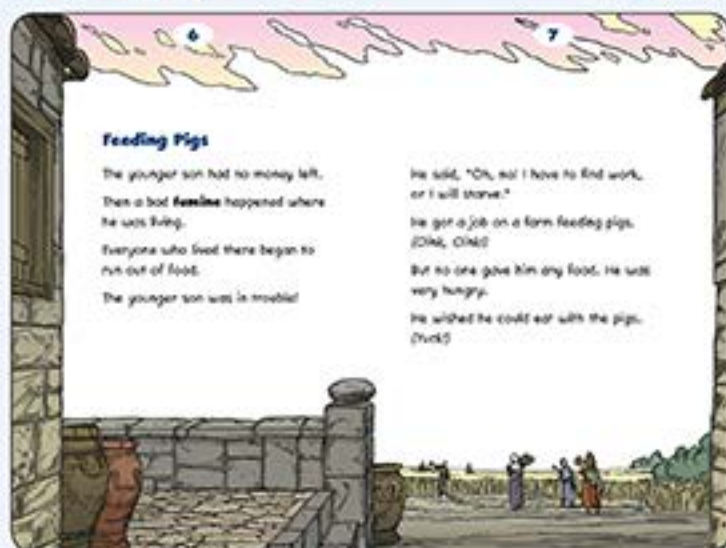
"Happy!" he said, "Now I can go for **fun**."

He left and spent all his money on having fun.

He was living a **reckless** life.

He was doing bad things.

All of his money was **wasted**.



Feeding Pigs

The younger son had no money left.

Then a bad **famine** happened where he was living.

Everyone who lived there began to run out of food.

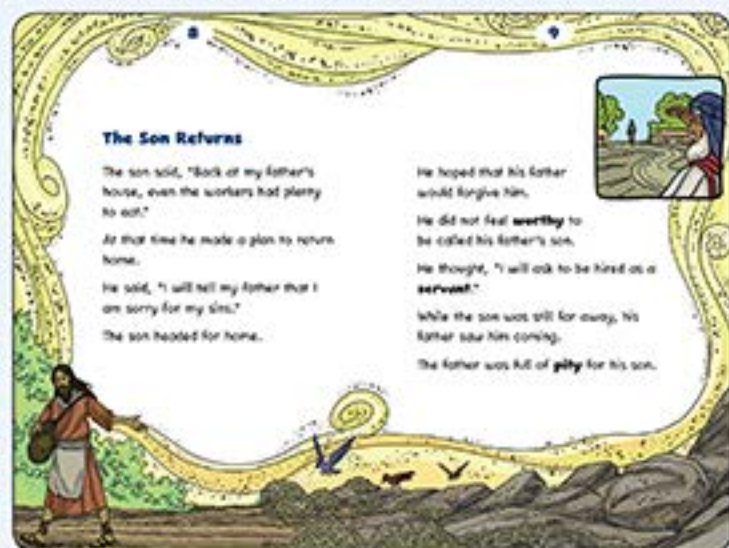
The younger son was in trouble!

He said, "Oh, no! I have to find work, or I will starve."

He got a job on a farm feeding pigs. (Pigs, pigs)

But no one gave him any food. He was very hungry.

He wished he could eat with the pigs. (Pigs)



The Son Returns

The son said, "Back of my father's house, even the workers had plenty to eat."

At that time he made a plan to return home.

He said, "I will tell my father that I am sorry for my sins."

The son headed for home.

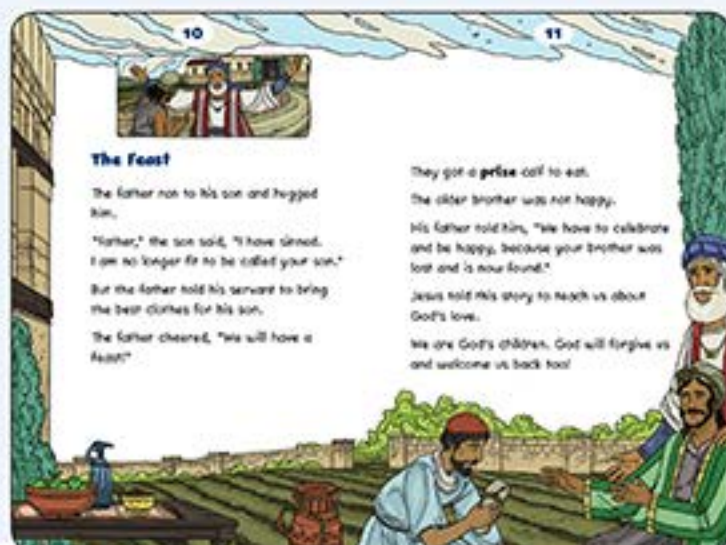
He hoped that his father would forgive him.

He did not feel **worthy** to be called his father's son.

He thought, "I will ask to be hired as a **servant**."

While the son was still for away, his father saw him coming.

The father was full of **pity** for his son.



The Feast

The father ran to his son and hugged him.

"Father," the son said, "I have sinned. I am no longer fit to be called your son."

But the father told his servant to bring the best clothes for his son.

The father cheered, "We will have a **feast**!"

They got a **prize** call to eat.

The older brother was not happy.

His father told him, "We have to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was lost and is now found."

Jesus told this story to teach us about God's love.

We are God's children. God will forgive us and welcome us back too!

Glossary

divided - made a choice

decided - got into plans

famine - not having enough food to survive

pity - a feeling of sadness for another person

prize - most valuable part

property - things such as land belonging to a person

reckless - acting in a way that is thoughtless or irresponsible

servant - a person who does things for someone else

wasted - thrown away or made useless

worthy - of value, of good character

Guiding Comprehension Questions

Literal Questions

- How many sons are in the story Jesus told?
- What did the younger son want his father to do?
- What did the younger son do with all his money?

Applied Questions

- Why was the father full of pity for his son?
- How did the father show his son that he was forgiven of his sins?
- Why was the older brother not happy when the younger brother returned?

Applied Questions

- When was the last time you asked your parents or our heavenly father for forgiveness?
- How did you show your love or did that you were sorry for something you did wrong?
- How is the Sacrament of Reconciliation demonstrated in this story?