

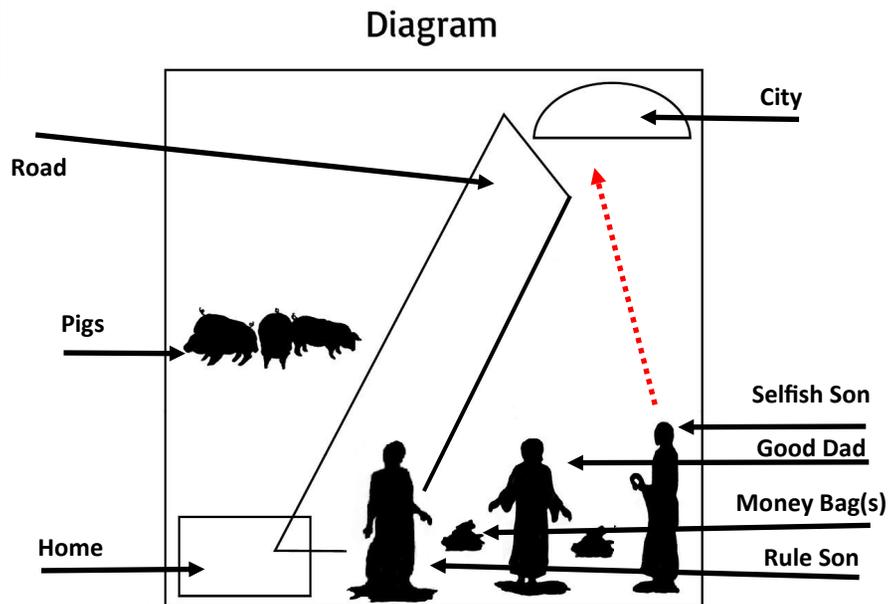
# The Prodigal Son

*Light a candle and remember the presence of God is with you.  
Lay out the green felt underlay.*

Jesus told us sacred stories called parables.  
Sacred means that something is extra special.  
Jesus was extra special.

The stories Jesus told were messages about how to love God and love each other.  
Let us wonder how this parable helps us love. (pause)

*Place the pieces to match the diagram. (see insert)*



There was a good dad who loved his two sons.  
*Place the father and two sons on the underlay with money bags.*

One son followed all the rules.  
*Point to the rule-following son.*

The other son did not. He was selfish.  
*Point to the selfish son.*

The selfish son left his family.  
*Move the selfish son up the road to the city with money.*

The rule-following son stayed home and did everything his father asked him to do.  
*Move the rule-following son closer to the father.*

The selfish son spent all of his money. He became hungry, but did not have enough money for food.  
No one would share any food with him.  
*Pick up the selfish son and say, "No," 3 times, and take away his money.*

What should the hungry son do? He remembered that even his father's pigs had food. So he decided to head back home to see if he could eat with the pigs.  
*Move the selfish son halfway to the his home.*

When the good dad saw his son returning, he was filled with love. His son had come home and was no longer selfish. The dad threw him a big party.  
*Move the father to the selfish son, and have them do a little dance.*

The rule-following son was jealous. He did not want to go to his brother's party.  
*Move the rule-following son near the pigs.*

The good dad told the rule-following son that he had never been away from his father's love like his brother had been. They were to celebrate him returning to the love of his family.  
*Bring all 3 people back together at home.*

## Wondering with God's Story

I wonder...

- ... what is like to have no food?
- ... what it is like to want to eat with pigs?
- ... if the younger son was scared to go back to his home?
- ... if the brothers forgave each other.

## Working with God's Story

1. Have each person retell the story without reading the words. *Just use items.*
2. Find the story in your Bible and highlight it. You can also look in a Storybook Bible or online.
3. Ask the wondering questions more than once. Dinner? Car? Bedtime?



Check the "Weekly Faith FITNESS Plan" card.

*Illustrator: Nicole Lapointe*

*Pictures: Worship Woodworks, worshipwoodworks.org*

## The Prodigal Son



*Come close to this story/parable of Jesus.*

**Luke 15:23b-24  
(Common English Version)**

*"We must celebrate with feasting because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate."*

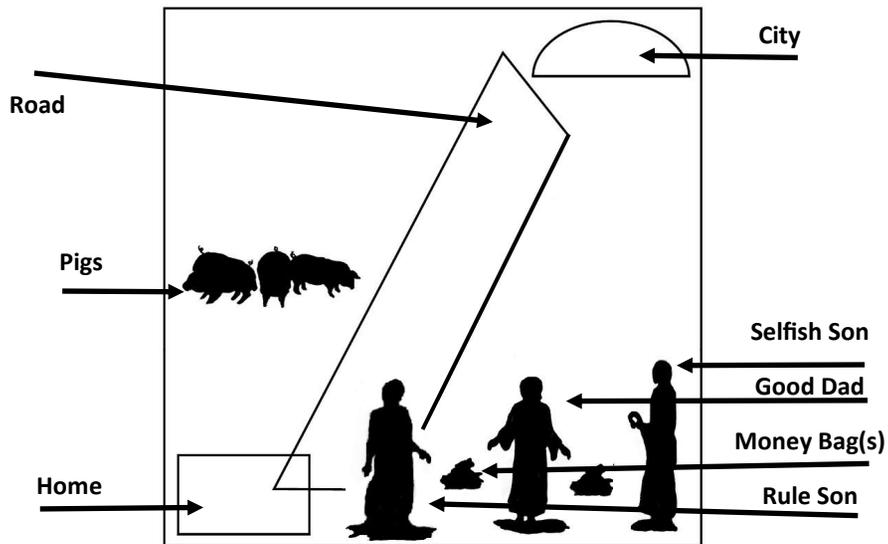


Ministries Across Generations  
docfamiliesandchildren.org

Disciples Home Missions  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Diagram



### Working with the Story (Parable)

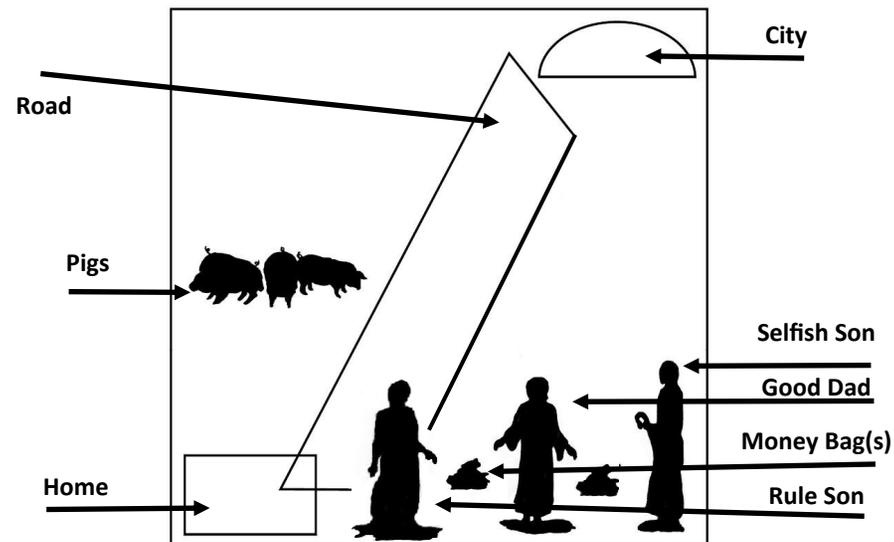
1. Lay out the tan felt.
2. Place the road as shown above.
3. Place the "home" at the bottom and the "city" at the top.
4. Place the father and two sons at the bottom with the money bags in between.
5. Place the pigs close to "home."
6. *The extra person can be used to expand on the story for older kids.*    
 *(I wonder who this person could be in the story?)*

Now you are ready to share this parable.

- 1st** Point to the son that follows the rules. Give him money.
- 2nd** Point to the son that is selfish. Give him money.
- 3rd** Move the selfish son far away on the felt (with money).
- 4th** Move the rule-following son closer to the father.
- 5th** Move the selfish son halfway back towards the father (without money).
- 6th** Move the father to the selfish son.
- 7th** Move the rule following son farther away (with money).
- 8th** Move all the family together. Pigs included.

*I wonder if the story has all it needs?  
Can you tell the story differently?*

Diagram



### Working with the Story (Parable)

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## *Draw the Parable*

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|  |  |  |
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### *Family Prayer*

*There are so many ways to pray. This week's prayer challenge is to write a family prayer that share with God a time your were frustrated with your family.*

*I/We are sometimes frustrated. Help us.*

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*Amen.*

## *Draw the Parable*

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*Amen.*