

The Forgiving Father – Luke 15:11-32

There are three characters in the Bible story, a father, a younger son, and an older son. Each Bible character experienced what happened differently.

The father – There was a man who had two sons. His youngest son wanted to leave. He gave the son money, and the son went away. The father was very sad.

The younger son – The younger son decided it was time to leave his family. He got money from his father and left. While he was away, he lost all his money. He was hungry, tired, and lonely. He even ate with the pigs.

The older son – The older son continued to work at the house. He helped care for the animals and listened to his father. He did not understand why his brother would want to leave.

One day, the younger son decided to return home. He wanted to ask his family for forgiveness. When the father saw him coming, he ran to his son, hugged and kissed him, and celebrated his return. The younger son was so happy to see his father and told him he would do anything to come home. But the older son was still working. When he heard about his brother's return, he did not understand why everyone was celebrating.

These three Bible characters all had different feelings about the brother leaving and coming home. But each person was an important part of this story because God is in each person's experience and everyone's feelings, even when we don't always understand.

Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story of the forgiving father. Assign someone to read the story from each character's perspective.

Wonder: Who do you identify with the most in the story? What does this story tell us about God?

Do: Sometimes we need to ask for forgiveness, and sometimes we need to offer forgiveness. Talk about ways you can forgive each other as a family.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for loving us unconditionally, just as we are. Amen.

