

The Prodigal Son Dancing Story

Resources: *Play mat/fabric, Winding road to unroll, three wooden spoon characters with happy face on one side and sad face on the other side, coins and money bag, pigs, pirate lego drinks, dice, mobile phone and play pizza, stuff for party.*

Once upon a time, for that is how stories often start, there was a man who had two sons. He loved both sons very much.

Unroll fabric and add man and two sons



Now the two sons worked for their father on his farm. It was hard work. "This is hard work", said the two brothers.

Add some animals and move two sons nearer them



Now one day, the youngest son decided the work was boring and he had had enough. "This is boring, I've had enough" he said to the youngest brother. "What are you going to do?" asked the eldest brother? "I am going to have some fun", said the youngest brother and went off to see his father.

Move youngest son to the father

"I want to have some fun" said the youngest brother to his father. "And how are you going to do that?" asked his father, feeling a bit put out. "I want my share of the inheritance" said the youngest brother". Well it is usual to wait until the father dies before receiving an inheritance so the father was very upset. But he loved his son very much so he agreed and handed over a large son of money.

Add coins near youngest son



<p>The son gathered all the money and packed a bag and said goodbye to his father and brother and set off along the road in search of some fun. "This is going to be fun" he thought. His father and brother were very sad to watch him go.</p>	<p><i>Gather up and place in money bag</i></p>  <p><i>Roll out road</i></p>
<p>Soon he came to a town with an inn and lots of people. This looks fun he thought and went in. He spent his money on buying drinks. "This is fun" he thought.</p>	<p><i>Add drink bottles and take away coins</i></p> 
<p>He spent his money at gambling games. "This is fun" he thought.</p>	<p><i>Add dice and take away more coins</i></p>
<p>He spent his money partying and making new friends. "This is fun", he thought.</p>	<p><i>Add mobile phone/pizza and take away the last off the coins</i></p> 
<p>Soon he had no money left. "This is not so fun", he thought.</p>	<p><i>Take away dice</i></p>
<p>And as soon as the money ran out, his new friends did not want to know him any more. "This is not so fun", he thought.</p>	<p><i>Take away phone</i></p>
<p>He had no money to buy food. "This is not so fun he thought".</p>	<p><i>Take away pizza</i></p>
<p>Soon he was so hungry that he had to beg someone to give him a job and he went out into a muddy field to look after some pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the food for the pigs. He was very sad and thought about home.</p>	<p><i>Add pigs</i></p> 
<p>Even the animals and farm workers on his father's farm ate better than this! So he set out to find his way back home. "I am going home".</p>	<p><i>Follow road</i></p>

Back at the farm the eldest brother was still working hard, even harder in fact now he had twice as much to do. "I have twice as much work to do" he said. His father was still sad and missed his youngest son. One day they saw someone travelling along the road towards them and the father started running along the road to meet him.

Move father along the road



The father was so pleased to see his youngest son that he gave him a big hug and brought him home. The youngest son said how sorry he was and asked to be a hired labourer at the farm. The father was so happy he decided to throw a big party to celebrate that his son who was lost was now found.

Set up party



But the eldest son was angry and refused to come to the party. He was upset that his brother had wasted his money and left home and now his father had welcomed him back. "I am angry and upset, I have worked hard and been given nothing yet my brother has wasted everything".

Place eldest son away from party. Show sad face.



But the father explained that he had been happy to have his eldest son with him all the time but he thought he had lost his youngest son and now he had come back. This was time to celebrate!

Everyone celebrate.



I Wonder Questions

- I wonder if they all lived happily ever after?
- I wonder how the eldest brother felt when his brother came home?
- I wonder how the youngest brother felt when he returned home?
- I wonder which character in the story is like God?
- I wonder why Jesus told this story?
- I wonder what we can learn from this story?