

## ***The Parable of the Forgiving Father***





*Light candle and read story first... directly from Bible.*

**Luke 15:11-24**

11 Then he said, "A man had two sons,

12 and the younger son said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them.

13 After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation.

14 When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need.

15 So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine.

16 And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any.

17 Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger.

18 I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.'"

20 So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.

21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.'

22 But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast,

24 because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began.

*Snuff candle.*

**Think about the story...**

*Why do you think the son might have wanted to leave home?*

*What do you think he expected might happen?*

*Do you think he spent his money wisely? What kinds of things did he spend it on?*

*How do you think he felt when all the money was gone?*

*Do you think those people who were with him his true friends?*

*Why do you think that he started thinking about his Father when he was hungry and feeding the pigs?*

*Why do you think his Father was waiting for him?*

*Do you think it was a little bit strange that the Father was not angry with his son for wasting all the money?*

*What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us about God his Father?*

*If you could put yourself in the story, who would you be?*