

Luke 15:11-24

NIV

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a

distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were

eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and

say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰

So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion



for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.



Discuss

1. The younger son demands his inheritance while his dad is still alive. How does he view his dad?
2. When he hits rock bottom, he wants to return home, but as a servant. How might a servant get treated?
3. What do you like about how the father responds to his son?
4. Jesus tells this story to describe how much God love us. Where are you in the story?
 - Far from God.
 - Hitting rock bottom and pondering returning.
 - Walking back toward God.
 - Home in God's arms.

Apply

1. Coming home to the father means becoming a follower of Jesus. Let's take a look at what it means to follow Jesus. (Share the Big Story)
2. We hope our friends experience God's love too. Think of 2 friends with whom you can share this story? Can you text them now a photo of it?

