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

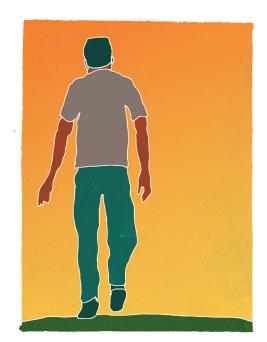


distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill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





