

The Lost Son

5+ lesson pack



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Introduction

In this lesson, we will continue exploring Jesus' parables of lost things by focusing on the lost or prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32.

Some of our key points are:

- God is full of grace
- Everyone needs salvation
- We can always return to God

Lesson Guide

Remind your children that this story is a parable that Jesus taught to teach us some important lessons.

Introduce the three main characters. It may help to print and cut out the pictures in this lesson or to select soft toys to represent the characters. Select one for the father and two others to represent the sons.

Share how the father loved his sons very much. Pick up the older brother and share how he was an excellent son. He obeyed the rules, worked hard, respected his father, and so on. Ask your child to name other good things for children to do.

Next, pick up the younger son. Explain that he was selfish and didn't care about others. Ask your child to name some selfish things to do. Show how the younger son asked his father to give him half of everything he owned so he could do what he wanted and never have to see his family again. Think about how this made the father feel?

Move the younger son away from his family and read Luke 15:13. Explain how he took all the good things his father gave him and began to waste them. Speak about how we waste things. Share how he thought he could buy happiness. Ask your child what things they would buy to make them happy?

Share how soon after, the younger son spent all his money and did not have food to eat. He found a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry he wanted to eat the pig's food. If you have time, place some kitchen scraps in a bowl and ask your children if they would like to eat them for lunch.

Read Luke 15:17. Share how "he came to his senses" and decided he would return to his father and say sorry. Here is a great time for you to share a testimony with your children. It could be your own or someone you know. Share when and how did you come to your senses and return to God?

Ask your child how they feel when they have to say sorry? Afraid they will be rejected? Embarrassed by what they did?

Read Luke 15:20-25. Move the characters around to show the son returning and the father running to meet him. Remind your children that Jesus is teaching us how God reacts when we return to Him. Share how God is all gracious and patient. We can always repent and turn to Him.

Reintroduce the older brother and ask which brother do you think Jesus wants us to copy? Read Luke 15:25-32 and share how he was jealous and thought he deserved more love.

Explain that the two brothers seem very different but had a lot in common. Both had a problem with sin and needed to say sorry to the father. Share how Jesus told this parable to show that everyone needs forgiveness. Even if we do good things on the outside, God cares about what we are like on the inside.

Pray together and thank God for His amazing grace.

The Lost Son



Jesus told the people a parable about a man who had two sons.

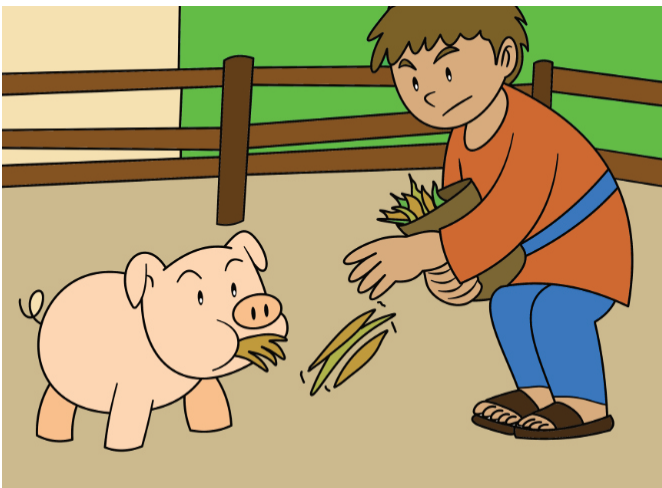
The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me my share of your estate, now before you die.”

So, the father divided his livelihood between his sons.

Not long after, the younger son packed all his belongings together and travelled to a far country.

There he wasted all his money on wild living.

Not long after, a severe famine arrived that country, and he began to starve without food.



He found a job to one of the citizens of that country feeding pigs. He became so hungry that he even wanted to eat the pods he was feeding the pigs with. But no one gave him anything.

He finally came to his senses and said, ‘The hired servants of my fathers have bread enough to spare, and I’m dying

with hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and will tell him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and you. I am not worthy to be called your son. Please, make me as one of your hired servants.””

The son made his way towards home. While he was a long distance from the house, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, embraced him, and kissed him. The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’



“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe, and put it on him. Put a ring on his hand, and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let’s eat, and celebrate; for my son, was dead, and is alive again. He was lost and is found.’ Then they began to celebrate.

The elder son was in the field. As he came near to the house, he heard music and dancing. He asked a servant what was going on.

He said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and healthy.’

The older son was angry, and would not go in. Therefore, his father came out, and begged him.

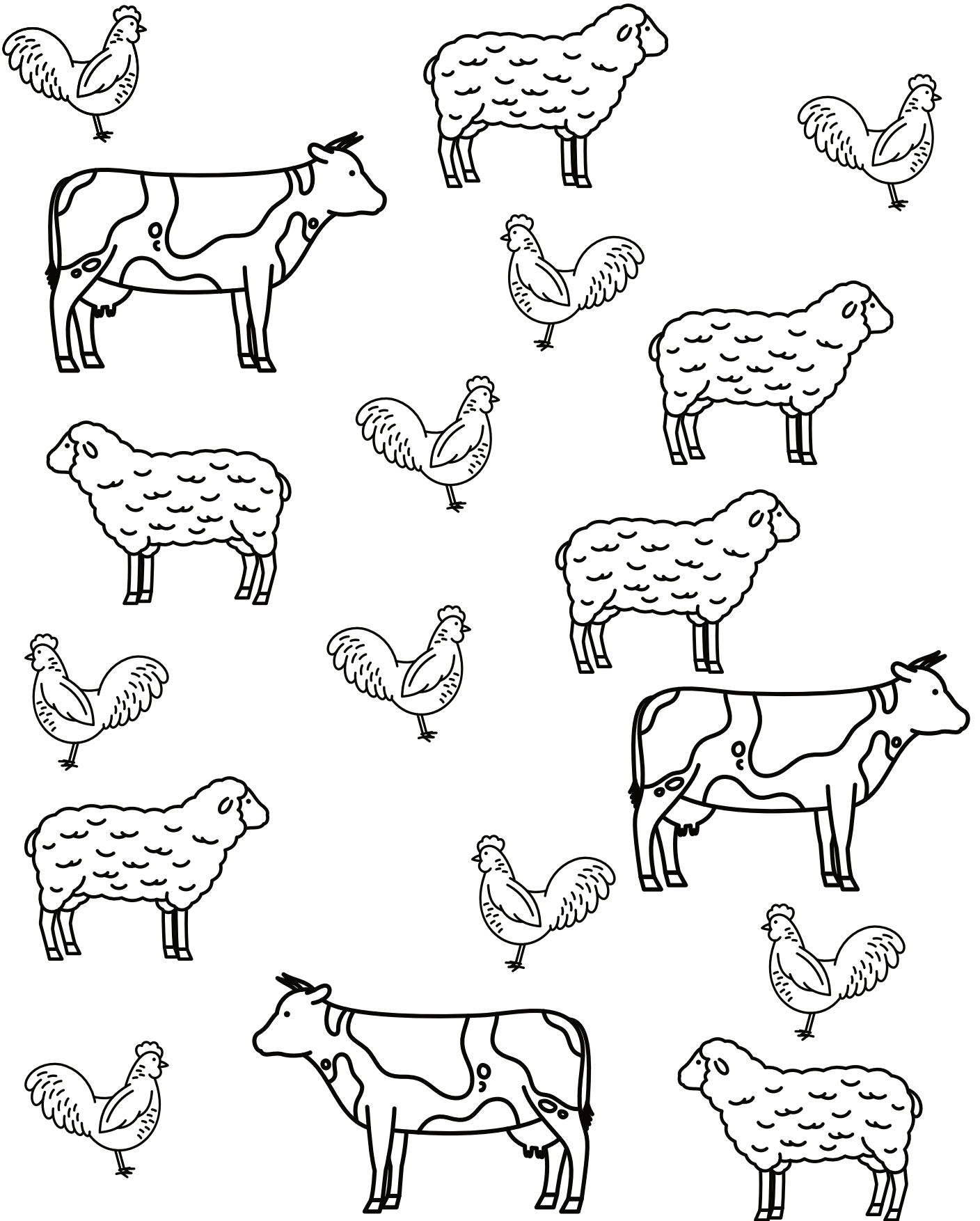
But he told his father, ‘All these years I have served you, and I never disobeyed a commandment of yours, but you never gave me a goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this your son came, who has shamed you and wasted your money returns and, you killed the fattened calf for him.’

The father replied, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But today is a day of celebration. Your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

Find 10 differences



The younger son received $\frac{1}{3}$ of his father's possessions.
Colour the younger son's portion of the following.



Lost Son Quiz

1) Who asked the father for his share of his estate?

The younger son / The older son / A servant

2) Where did the younger son go?

A nearby village / A distant land / Stayed at home

3) What did the younger son do with the money?

He invested it wisely / He gave it to the poor / He wasted it on wild living

4) The younger son found a job feeding which animal?

Pigs / Sheep / Cows

5) How did the father react when the younger son returned home?

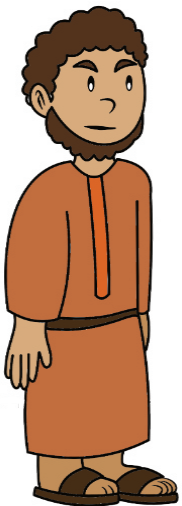
He didn't want to speak to him / He gave him a job as a servant / He welcomed him as a son

6) Which items did the father give to the younger son?

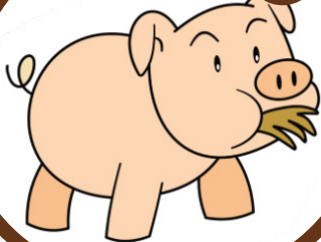
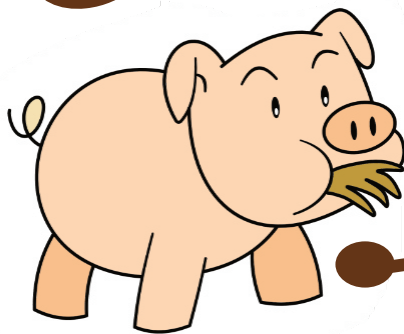
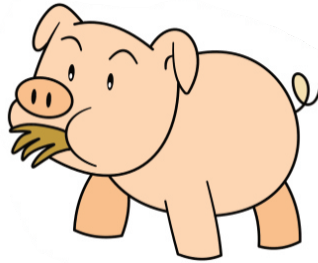
A ring / A glove / A robe / A hat / Sandals / A bag

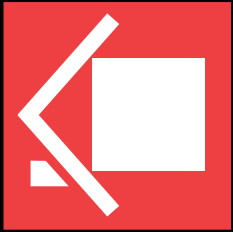
7) How did the older brother feel when his brother returned?

Happy / Angry / loving



Which path leads back to the father?





1

2

3

4

5

6

7

23

22

21

20

19

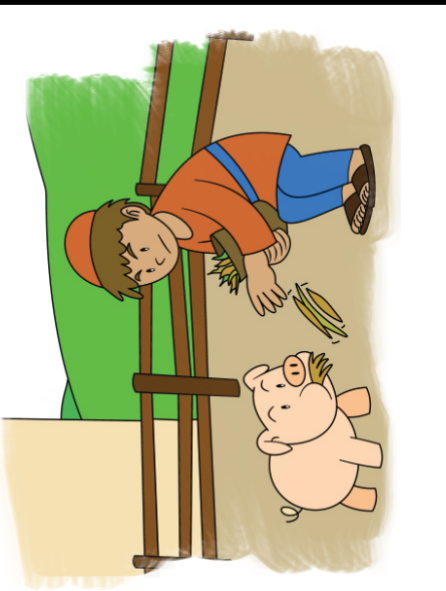
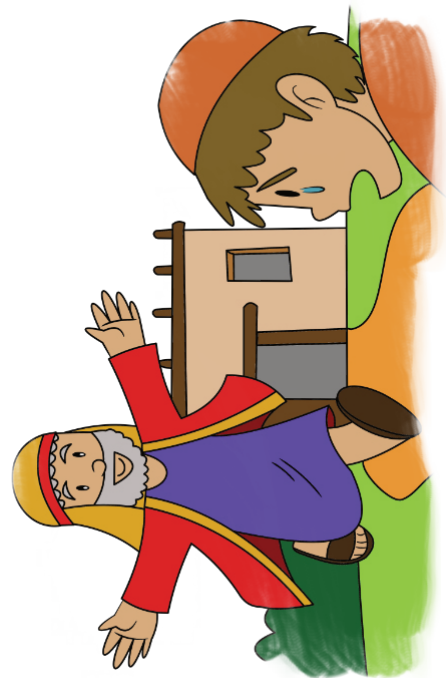


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12



8

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10

11

Games and Activities

Pig snorting

You will need at least three people to play this game, but the more people, the better. Choose one person to face the wall.

Behind them, one person should make the sound of a pig. The person facing the wall must guess who is making the noise.



Race back

Mark a starting line. Choose one player to be the caller.

On go, everyone except the caller must walk away from the start line.

When the caller shouts "Home." They should race back as quickly as possible.

The first child back becomes the caller.

Talk about how God wants people to return to him quickly.

Feed the pigs

Split children into teams.

Scrunch up some paper balls (These will be the pigs food)

Place a bucket with a picture of a pig on it about 2 metres in front of each team.

Children should race to feed the pigs x amount of food.



Welcome Home Sign



What you need:

Ten Lollipop sticks (or use card and skip step 1)

Glue

Pens

Ribbon

What to do:



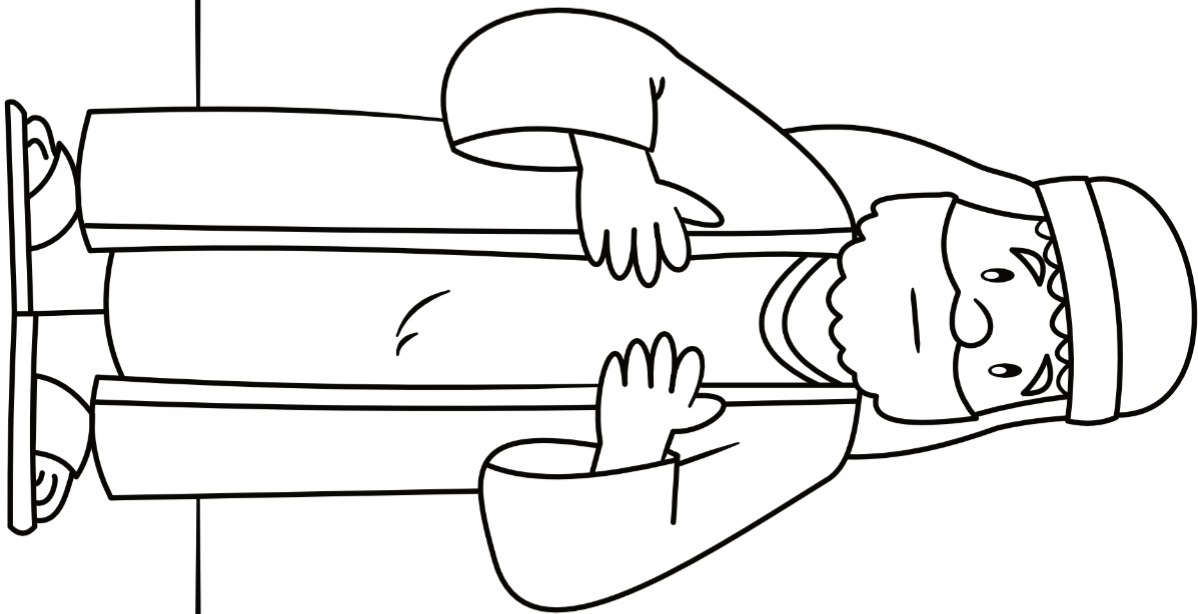
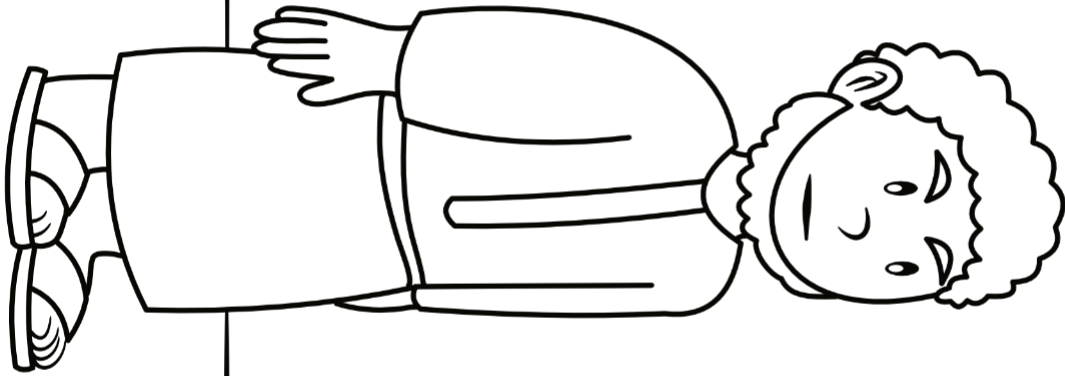
Glue lollipop sticks together to make a sign as shown in the picture. Allow to dry.



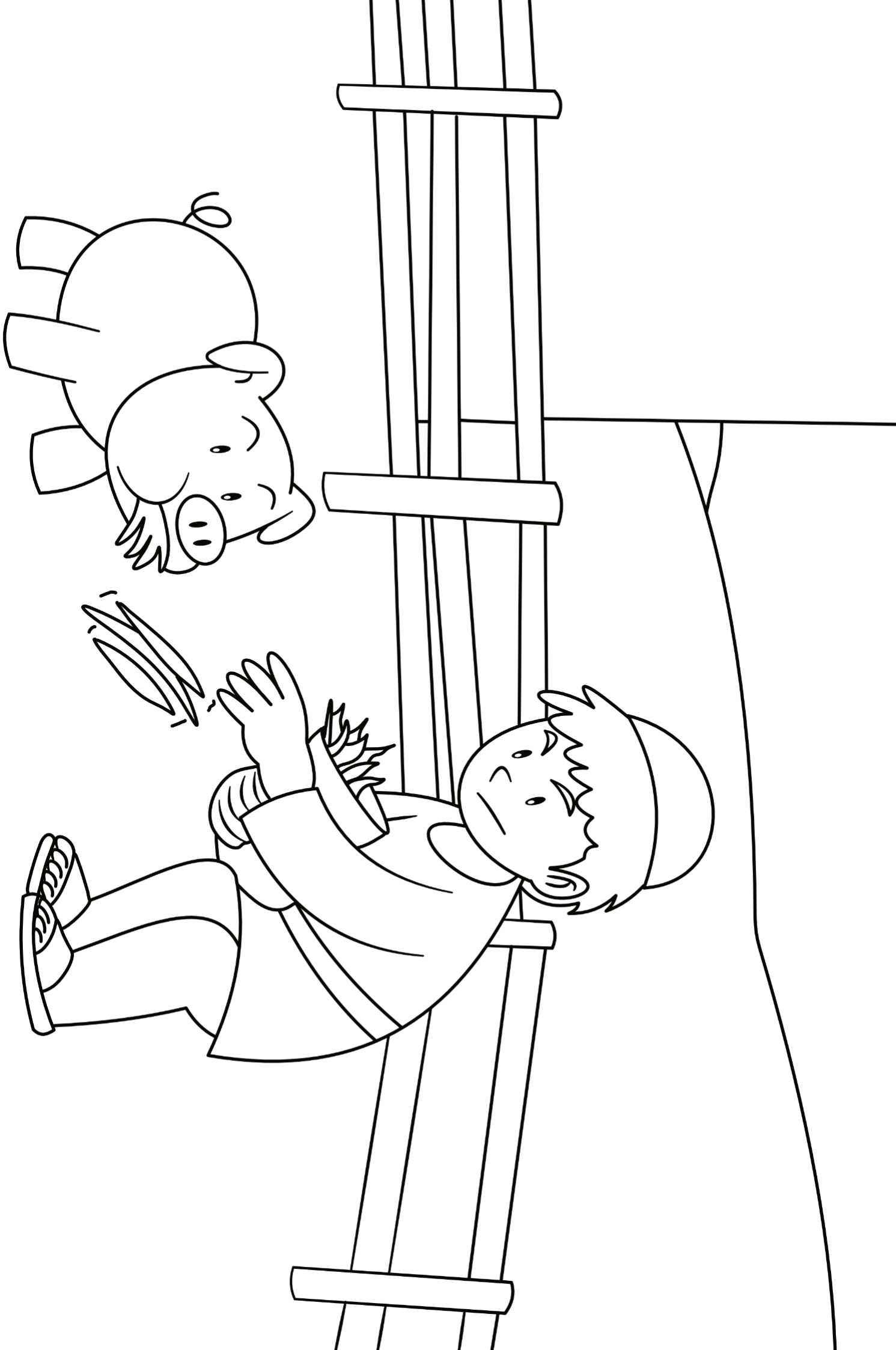
Decorate your welcome home sign any way you want.



Glue or tape on ribbon to hang.









Worship Time

Recommended worship songs. Not produced by Trueway Kids. YouTube Videos to be used for personal use only.

Love the Lord

<https://youtu.be/vdMlxCdIY-c>

Looking at My Heart

<https://youtu.be/5zWypq92UCU>

Detective Shuffle

<https://youtu.be/4AMRQn7IoZI>



Prayer

Thank God that He forgives us and welcomes us back.

Ask Him to help you to stay close to him and not be jealous of others.

Next Week

The parable of the sower

If you haven't already done so, sign up to receive future lessons by email.
truewaykids.com/subscribe/

