

# The Gospel at Home

## **This Week's Gospel:** **Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

The Parable of the Forgiving Father is one of the most well-known from Jesus. The son does not earn the love of his father. Instead love is what the father gives. God's love and forgiveness are freely given to help us grow close to him. No matter how lost we become, the Lord will find us.

### **Exploring the Gospel Message**

**Seeds (Preschool):** Your child learned that God is our forgiving Father. Your son or daughter can show you the path to find Jesus as he welcomes us home. Have your child tell you how we share happiness. Have the family discuss how you all share happiness with others. Pray that the Lord will grant you all a happy life.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** God is our forgiving Father. What story do the pictures on the front of this week's Promise booklet tell? Have your child tell the Parable of the Forgiving Father using the pictures from this week's Promise. Talk about the many ways that God forgives us.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** This week, your child's class talked about how to forgive others. Have your child tell you what happened in the story titled, "A Loving Welcome." He or she should also know what a parable is. The Parable of the Forgiving Father is a good example from this week's Gospel. Talk about the story with your child. This week's lesson included the story of the Exodus when God freed his People from slavery. How do love and forgiveness factor into the parable and the Exodus story?

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Have your child point out some of the places on the cover map in the land where Joshua walked, especially Gilgal. Which ending did your youngster choose for the lesson story? Have he or she explain the choice. Talk about what the Parable of the Forgiving Father teaches us about forgiveness. For Lent, this week's lesson explores the Lord's Prayer. Be sure to add it to family prayer this week.

**Visions (Grades 7-8):** Ask your young person about the choices he or she made on the What Can I Forgive survey? Why does the mother get so upset in the story titled, "My Brother Part II"? Talk about what this week's Gospel says about the Lord's forgiveness. Allow time at home this week for an examination of conscience in preparation for the times we seek forgiveness. Consider holding the Forgiveness Prayer Service at home. Pray that your family will forgive each other as God forgives us. Find out when your parish celebrates the Sacrament of Pardon and Peace and plan to take part.

### **Pray Together**

In this fourth week of Lent, forgiveness is the theme as presented in the Parable of the Forgiving Father. Add prayers of forgiveness to family prayer, and plan to take part in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation if possible. It is important to practice the forgiveness we pray for.