

READ IT

This rotation's Bible story is
The Prodigal Son
from Luke 11-32.

Like the Prodigal Son's father, God welcomes us all home.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Squander
- Plead
- Dissolute
- Disobey
- Famine
- Rejoice
- Fatted calf?

Normally, children would not receive their inheritance until after their father died; the older son would also be given preference. The younger son in this story really insults his father and long tradition by asking for his inheritance before his father has died.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 378-383

Spark Bible pages 1153-1154

Family Prayer

Dear God, Help us remember that no matter how hard we try, we are like the younger son. We wander far from you. We sin. Only because of your open-armed loving are we all welcomed home. Lord, help us to come home! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

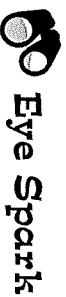
TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

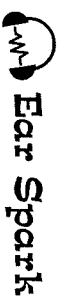
- 1 Who do you love to see after a long separation?
- 2 Why do you think the older brother reacts as he does?
- 3 God's love and kingdom do not follow human reason. Why does the father welcome the son home? What does the father want the elder son to understand?

- 4 Take turns sharing what you would like to do if you could spend all your time doing anything you want—without worrying about money or anyone else. How could that get you in trouble?



Eye Spark

When you see homeless people, remember the prodigal son who was so deeply loved.



Ear Spark

When you hear about people or people without a home, remember the father who wanted his younger son to come home so badly.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

We can feel free when we work for others. Find an aid organization—maybe a food pantry or a local church ministry—that will allow your family to volunteer and schedule a time to help.

For younger kids

Write a letter to someone you miss who is far away and ask him or her to come "home" to see you.

For older kids

There are many ways to separate yourself from your parents and put yourself in harm's way. Rules and chores do not seem freeing. Give some thought to the ways in which rules, chores and restrictions DO free you. Talk about it with your parents. This week, make an effort to take care of all your responsibilities and to help your family with a cheerful heart.