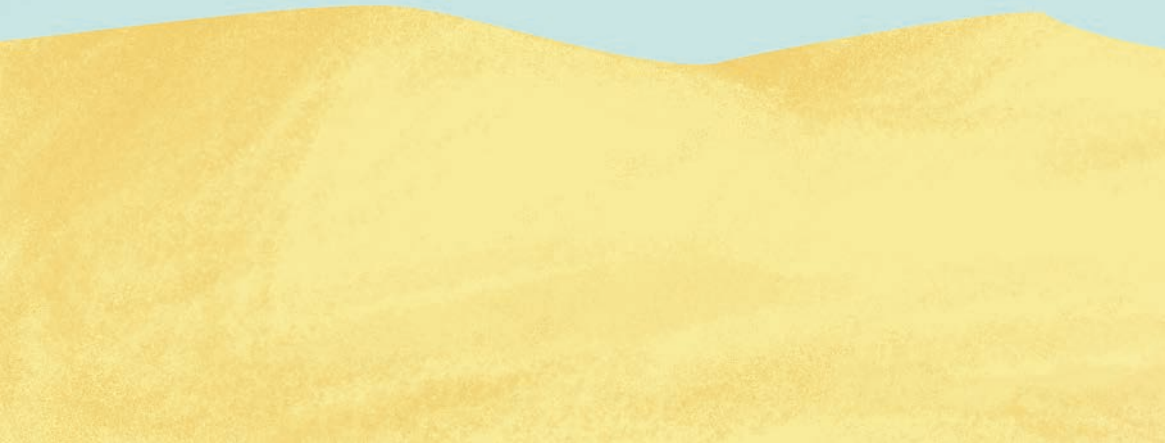


THE PRODIGAL SON



A man had two sons.
The younger one was fed up with his home and thought:
“I find it boring here at home.
My hard-working brother can take care of the farm.
I want to see the world! And I need money to do that.”





So he told his father: "If you die,
I will get half of your assets anyway.
But I need money, now.
Pay me my share."





The father was very sad
that his son wanted to leave.
But he gave him the money.
So the young son set out
into the wide world.





He traveled to a far country
and wasted his money.



Soon he had no money at all.
And it got worse:
A great famine spread across the land.



In order to survive, he had to work.
The only work the son could find was a job feeding pigs.
Nobody wanted to do this work.
The hunger tormented him terribly.
Starving, the son desired to eat the food
he was feeding the pigs,
but he wasn't allowed to.





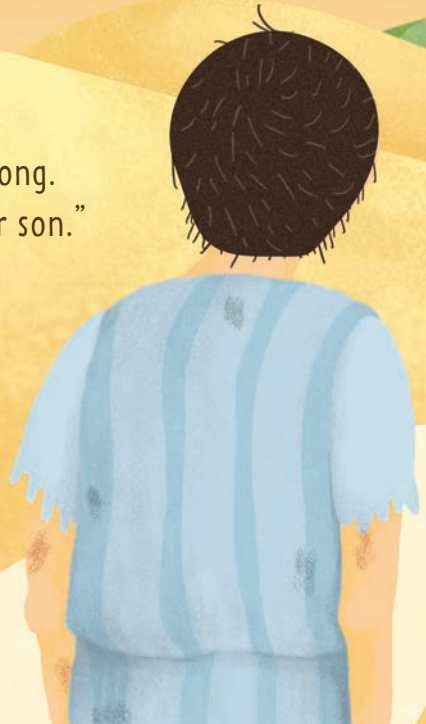
Then he remembered that even the lowest worker of his father had more to eat than he had. Should he go back to his father?

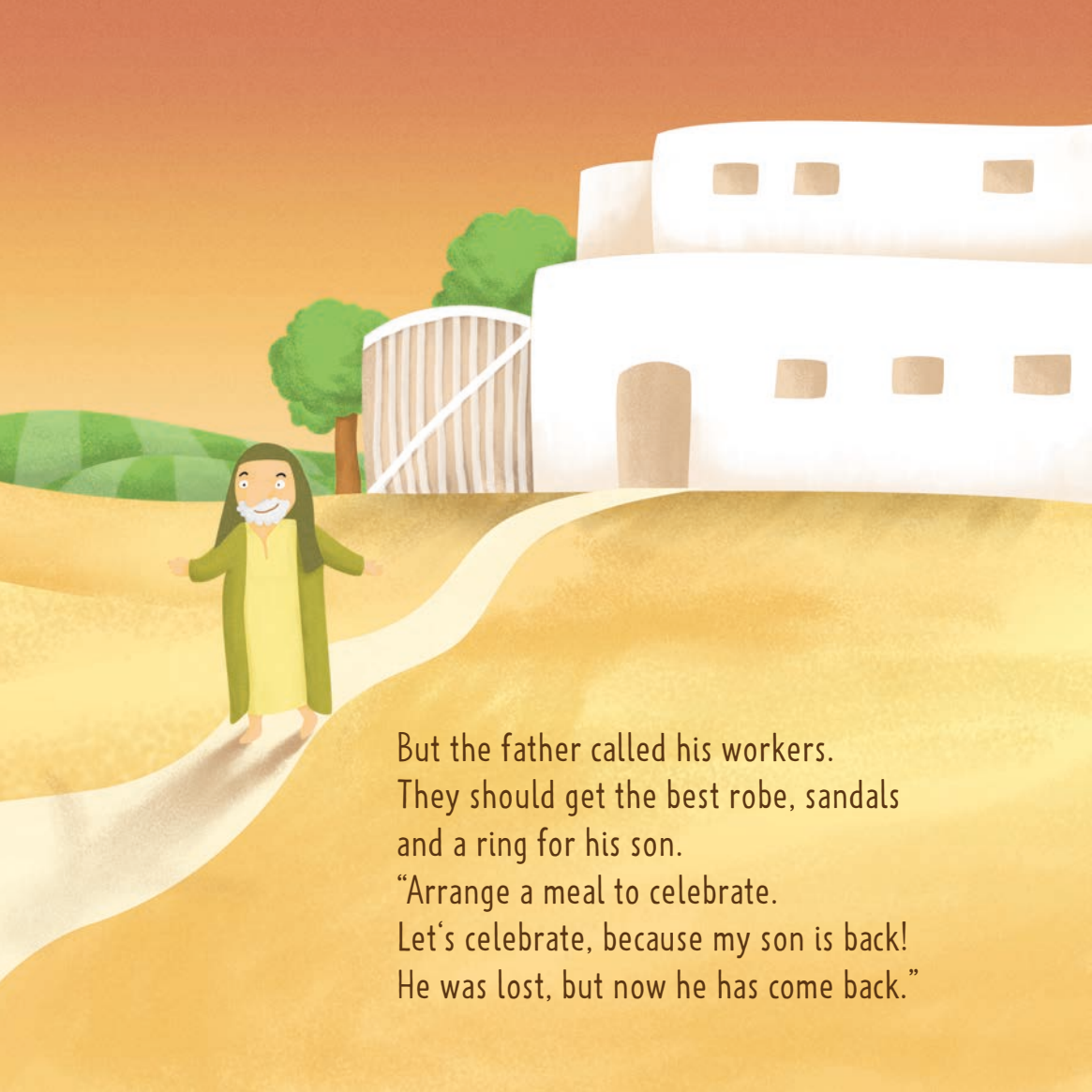
Yes, that is what he wanted to do. And then he would tell him:
“Father, I’m so sorry! I’m a bad son. At least accept me as your servant.”



So he set out on the long way home.
Shortly before he arrived he couldn't believe
what he was seeing:
His father was already running towards him.
He had been eagerly awaiting his return.
He simply took his son in his arms and kissed him!

The son could only stutter:
“Father, I am guilty
and have behaved completely wrong.
I am not worthy to be called your son.”





But the father called his workers.
They should get the best robe, sandals
and a ring for his son.
“Arrange a meal to celebrate.
Let’s celebrate, because my son is back!
He was lost, but now he has come back.”

When the older son found out what had happened,
he became very angry.





The father went to his elder son to reassure him.
But he just shouted at him:

“I’ve worked for you all my life!
Day after day I always did what you wanted from me.
But I never even had a barbecue with my friends.
And for this good-for-nothing you make such a big feast?”



The father put his hand on his shoulder and said calmly,

“My son, don’t you know:
everything that belongs to me belongs to you.
You can enjoy everything you see!”

The elder was surprised. He had never seen it
like this before!

The Father continued:

“And now come and rejoice with us!
We must celebrate that your brother has come home.
He was lost, but now he is found!”

God is like the Father in this story.

He loves you and wants to be your father.
We don't have to work hard like the older son.

He also loves you when you ran away from
him and have done things that are not good,
like the younger son.

He wants to forgive and forget everything
when you come to him.



One father, two sons.
The younger one wants to see the world
and disappears with his inheritance.
But soon things become really miserable ...

A story about forgiveness
and the boundless fatherly love of God.



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