



1 Recognize Wrongs

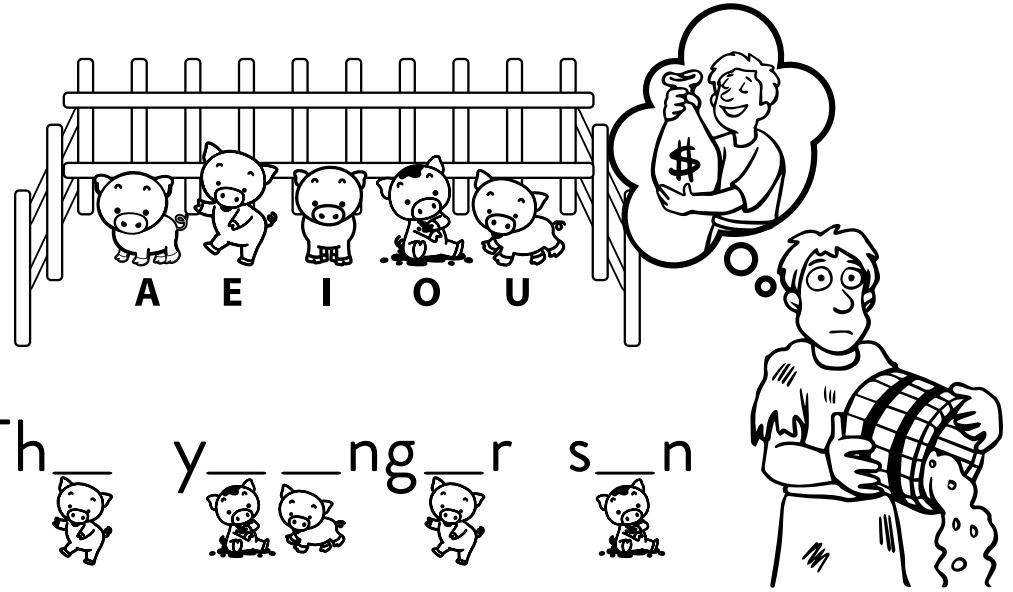
WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

Forgiveness is about relationships. When a wrong or hurt is done, it damages the relationship. Forgiveness is a process, and the first step is to recognize and name our wrongdoing. It takes courage to face what we have done wrong, but it begins the process of forgiveness.

- Read aloud the Bible story (p. 52) and wonder together:
 - ➔ Who did wrong in the story? What happened?
 - ➔ Have you ever done anything wrong? What happened?
 - ➔ What does it feel like to name your wrongdoing and apologize?
- Give each person a piece of paper and pencil, markers, or crayons. Have them write or draw something they have done wrong and who it hurt. No one needs to tell anyone else, but each person is having a chance to recognize and name a wrong. Then have everyone fold their papers in half, and half again, with words and pictures on the inside. Pass paper to another person who rips it into tiny pieces and says, “You are forgiven!” Throw away all the pieces.
- Read aloud *How to Apologize* by David LaRochelle or watch the YouTube video “How to Apologize by David LaRochelle and Mike Wohnoutka” (bit.ly/FMApologize, 5:44). Talk together about times that you have apologized for something. Practice apologizing using some situations that you make up or have experienced. Remember to know and name what has been done wrong in the apology.

Thank you, God, for loving us even when we do wrong. Amen.

Use the code in the pig pen to read the sentence.



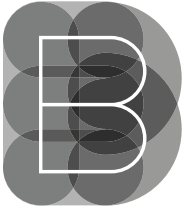
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The younger son came to his senses and knew he had done something wrong.



BIBLE STORY

Based on Luke 15:11–24

(Note: The Bible story for each session in this unit is the story of the loving and forgiving father and his two sons. This is the first part of the story.)

Once there was a parent with two children. One day, the younger child said to their father, “Give me all the money I’d get someday when you die. I don’t want to wait.” The father was sad about what their child asked of them. But the father loved their child, so he gave his son the money. The son was happy, but the father was very sad.

The younger child gathered all his possessions and left home. He was thrilled to go far away and live his own life. He traveled to a city and ate, and drank, and partied all he wanted. He was surprised when all his money was gone and confused when all the people he thought were friends left him.

Then bad times hit the city, and there was no food and no jobs. The son didn’t know what to do. He finally found a job feeding a farmer’s pigs. It was dirty and smelly, and even then the pigs were eating more than he was. The son was hungry, tired, and scared.

The son realized that everyone who worked for his father had plenty to eat and a place to live. He came to his senses and knew he had done something wrong. He knew he needed to tell his father. He decided to say that he didn’t need to be treated like a son but as one of his father’s workers.

So he got up and traveled home. While the son was coming up the road, but still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with so much love. The father ran and put his arms around his child and kissed him. He was so happy that his son was home safe and sound. The son told his father what he had done was wrong and hoped he could be one of his father’s workers.

The father was happy to hear that, but much happier that his son was home. He called to everyone and said that there would be a big party to celebrate his son’s return, for he had thought his son was dead, but he was alive! The father forgave his son.

