

The Lord Jesus Tells of a Father's Grace and a Son's Disgrace
About 5 minutes, from Luke 15: 11-32

Participants (*No need to memorize lines; the aim is to relive sacred events, not to perform*)

Son
Father
Older brother
Bargirl
Prompter Shout a brief line, and Echoes repeat it.
Echoes Children and all adults who want to take part. Echoes need no script.

Son Dad, give me my share of the estate. It's my inheritance.
Father Your inheritance! I'm not dead yet!
Son But I want to enjoy it now, dad.
Father Very well, son. Here is your portion of the family wealth.
Son Goodbye. You will not be seeing me. I am going far away.
Prompter & Echoes Sad!
Son Now, here I am where I can live just as I want.
Bargirl Hi, handsome! I like a man who enjoys sharing his wealth.
 Buy me a drink.
Son Why not? Call your friends over, and we will all celebrate.
Prompter & Echoes Watch out!
Son Well, I live extravagantly for a few years. Then...
Prompter & Echoes His money runs out!
Bargirl What? Now you beg me for a drink? You've got things backward!
 You've squandered all your coins, sonny. Foolish boy! Get lost!
Son Please don't make fun of me. Now I have nothing.
 Do you know anyone who might offer me a job?
Bargirl There is a famine now. Everyone is looking for a job!
Son But I am desperate! I will do any kind of work.
Prompter & Echoes Anything!
Bargirl See that drunk stumbling away from the bar? Ask him when he's sober.
 He raises pigs, thousands of the filthy things.
 He hires drifters like you. Wait! You look Jewish.
 Jews and pigs do not get along.
Son Pigs! Oh, no! I can't! But I have to! Sir! May I have a word with you?
Prompter & Echoes He goes to the hogs!
Son Here I am, feeding these filthy pigs, and I am still hungry!
 I wish I could eat these pods that I give to the hogs.
 They eat better than I do!
Prompter & Echoes Months go by.

- Son My dad's hired hands have lots of bread but I am wasting away with hunger! It's time that I came to my senses.
- Prompter & Echoes Finally!
- Bargirl That Jewish boy is leaving town. I wonder where he is going.
- Son I will return to my father. But how can I face him? What can I tell him?
- Prompter & Echoes The truth!
- Father It has been so long now since my son left! So very long!
It breaks my heart! (*Shield your eyes with your hand, looking far off.*)
Daily I scan the horizon, hoping to see him coming down the road.
Dear God, hear my prayer!
- Prompter & Echoes Bring him home!
- Father Oh! Is that my son I see, coming down the road? Is it...?
Yes! It is he!
- Prompter & Echoes He has come back!
- Son To my surprise, my father runs, weeping, embraces me and kisses me!
- Prompter & Echoes Mercy and grace!
- Son Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
I am no longer worthy to be called your son.
- Father Come. Servant, bring out the best robe and put it on him, quickly.
Put our family ring on his hand and sandals on his feet!
Bring the calf that we have fattened, and kill it.
We will feast and celebrate! My son was dead and now lives again;
he was lost and has been found.
- Older brother I come in from the field and hear music. They are dancing!
What is going on? What's that?
They killed the fattened calf to celebrate my brother's return!
I will not go in! I won't! I won't!
- Prompter & Echoes He won't share the joy!
- Father Come, son. I have received your younger brother back,
safe and sound. Come join the celebration.
- Older brother (*Wave a clenched fist in the air.*)
No, father, I won't go in! How could you?
Look! For years, I have served you and obeyed your every command;
yet you never gave me even a goat, to celebrate with my pals.
Now this son of yours comes, who wasted your wealth with prostitutes,
and you kill the fattened calf for him!
- Father Oh, son! You have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours.
But we must celebrate with joy, for your brother was lost
and has been found. He was dead; now he is now alive!
- Prompter & Echoes He is alive!