

Assembly 4

Come home my son

Play and sing "Working with the pigs"

Recap the story so far

Continue the story

After running out of money, the son decided that he would be better off living back at his father's house. He knew that he'd already taken everything that was his, and his father didn't owe him anything, so he wasn't expecting to live in the house as a son, but as one of the servants.

Back at home though, his father hadn't just forgotten about him. He would spend hours each day, just staring down the road hoping that his son would return.

Play the Song, "Come home my son"

Questions for discussion

When the son was thinking about going home, how do you think he expected his father to feel?

Activity

Ask for a volunteer who is good at making faces. Get them to stand at the front, facing the children. Give them the following scenarios and ask them to express the relevant emotions, using only posture and facial expressions.

1. How did the son feel when he first left home with the money?
2. How did the son feel when he ran out of money and had to work with the pigs?
3. When the son thought about returning home, how did he expect his father to feel about him going back home with no money?
4. How do you think his father would feel when he saw his son coming back home?

Discuss the emotions shown and whether or not the other children agree with them.

People that love us, will still love us, even when we do things that they disagree with. The people who look after you at home may get cross with you, but they don't stop caring for you. Jesus, who told the story, was showing us that even when we ignore God or do bad things, he doesn't ever stop wanting us to come back to him.

Prayer

Thank you Lord that even though we make mistakes and do things wrong, sometimes by accident and sometimes on purpose, you still love us and you'll never love us any less.

Reflection

Think of the person or people that look after you at home. Imagine them loving you, not because you are good, or nice, or sensible, but because you are you.

Learn the song