

You will need...

- A helper with an old man wig
- Pig mask
- Money

The story

Story	Actions
<p>This term, we're finding out that God cares. Jesus once told a story to show just how much God cares.</p>	
<p>There was a young man, He lived with his Dad. The young man got thinking to himself, "One day, Dad is going to give me a lot of his money. Well I want it now. I want to go and have adventures, and live an amazing life.</p>	<p>Point to yourself Point to old man</p>
<p>So one day, the young son walked up to his dad and said, "Dad, I don't want to live here anymore. I don't really want to see you anymore. Give me all the money that one day will be mine, and give it to me now."</p>	<p>Walk over to Dad</p>
<p>Well the Dad was very sad. His son wanted to go away. What could he say? He gave his son so much money, all that he has asked for.</p>	<p>Hand over some money</p>

<p>Well, off his son went, he had never seen so much money in all his life. He could buy anything, he could do anything, he could do all that he wanted. He did. He bought fancy clothes, and he ate fancy food, and he went to great parties. But before long he had no money at all. He had nothing, no money, no friends, and no Dad. He needed some money. He had nothing. So he got a job feeding the pigs. He had so little food, that he started to eat pig food. Eurgh!</p>	<p>Look at money</p> <p>Dance</p> <p>Helper comes on with pig mask, snorting.</p>
<p>One day while he was sitting with the pigs, he thought to himself, "I hate this. I've got stinking pigs everywhere and I'm on my own. I'm <u>really</u> unhappy. But my Dad has servants who look after pigs, and they're happy. They enjoy working for my dad, so I'll go back to him"</p>	
<p>This is what I'll say to Dad when I see him, "I'm really sorry. I wish I had never gone. I'm not worthy to be your son. Please let me be your servant"</p> <p>And the whole way home, the boy kept practising what he would say, "I'm really sorry. I wish I had never gone. I'm not worthy to be your son. Please let me be your servant"</p>	
<p>But His Dad was waiting for his son to come home. He'd been waiting ever since his son had left. As soon as he saw him coming, he ran to meet him.</p>	<p>Dad stands on a chair looking for his son to come home</p>
<p>Son tries to speak, "I'm really sorry. I wish..."</p>	<p>Big hug.</p>
<p>Dad says, "Oh, it's so good to have you back. Welcome back. We're going to have a party. It's great to have you back"</p>	
<p>The son didn't have a chance to have anytime to say sorry, or even to offer to be a servant. His Dad was just so pleased. The Dad loved his son so much, he just wanted to have him back. What a happy ending!</p>	



And Jesus said that this is how much God cares for us. He just longs to have us back in his family. He's waiting for us to realise we're far from him and need to say sorry. He loves us.



Top Tips

- Everything needs to be said with plenty of intonation, life, interest and volume to keep toddlers interested. It will sound odd!