



The Road Home

The Prodigal Son | A guided lesson for ages about 7-12 | 40-50 minutes

Start with the Bible

Read Luke 15:11-32 (KJV). Jesus tells this parable after the lost sheep and lost coin. The story includes a younger son, an older son, and their father. Read all the way to the father's words to the older son.

Big idea: A father welcomes home

Key verse: Luke 15:24

Five pauses in the parable

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| 1 ASK | What did the younger son ask for? (verses 11-12) |
| 2 AWAY | What happened after he left home? (verses 13-16) |
| 3 RETURN | What did he decide to tell his father? (verses 17-21) |
| 4 WELCOME | How did the father respond? (verses 20-24) |
| 5 OUTSIDE | What troubled the older son? What did the father say? (verses 25-32) |

Run the class

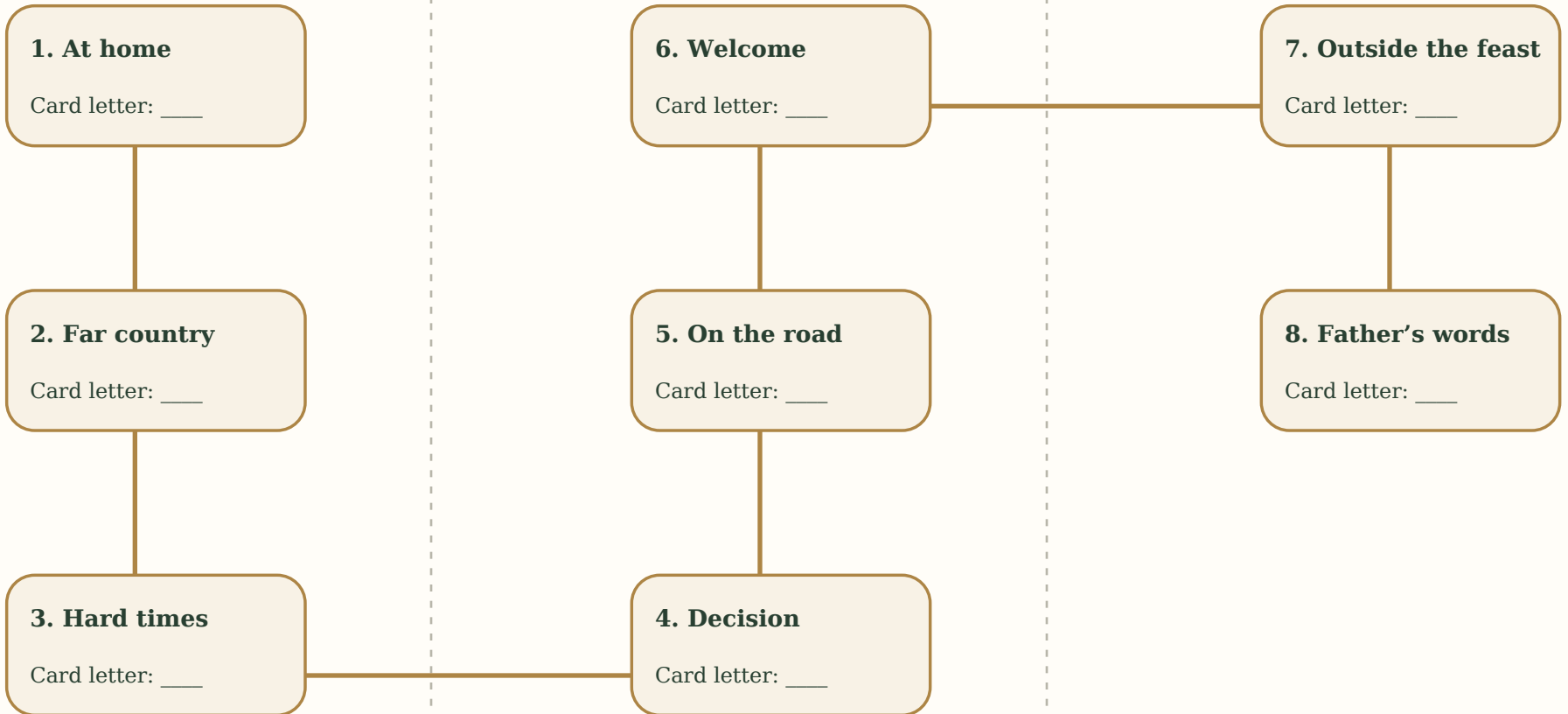
- 5 min - Explain that a parable is a story Jesus told to teach.
- 12 min - Read Luke 15:11-32, pausing at the five places above.
- 15 min - Cut the cards on page 3; arrange them on the foldout path on page 2.
- 10 min - Compare the brothers' reactions on page 4.
- 5 min - Check the text and close with a short prayer if appropriate.

No child needs to share a personal story about family conflict or separation.



The Road Away and the Road Home

Read Luke 15:11-32. Place or write each card letter at the matching numbered stop. Fold along the dotted lines after you finish.





Eight Stops, Eight Cards

Cut along the dotted lines. Place the cards on the path before writing their letters.

A

The older son became angry and would not go in.

Luke 15:25-28

B

The younger son asked for his portion; the father divided his living.

Luke 15:11-12

C

The father saw the returning son, ran to him, and embraced him.

Luke 15:20

D

The younger son went to a far country and wasted his substance.

Luke 15:13

E

A famine came. The younger son fed swine and was hungry.

Luke 15:14-16

F

The father called for a robe, ring, shoes, and a celebration.

Luke 15:22-24

G

The younger son decided to return and admit that he had sinned.

Luke 15:17-19

H

The father told the older son why they should rejoice.

Luke 15:31-32

Write your path order here:

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Two Brothers, Two Reactions

Look again at Luke 15:17-32. Write or draw what you discover.

1. The younger son

Luke 15:20-21

What did he say when he came home?

2. The father

Luke 15:20-22

How did he greet the younger son?

3. The older son

Luke 15:25-30

How did he react to the celebration?

4. The father again

Luke 15:31-32

What did he tell the older son?

Crow Wall question: Does Jesus tell us whether the older son went inside?



Check the Journey

Use Luke 15 to check the order. Let the ending remain as Jesus told it.

Story-card order

B → D → E → G → C → F → A → H

Two-brothers answer guide

1. The younger son admitted he had sinned and said he was unworthy (verse 21).
2. The father saw him, ran to him, embraced him, and kissed him (verse 20).
3. The older son was angry and would not go in (verse 28).
4. The father said the older son was always with him, and that they ought to rejoice because his brother was lost and found (verses 31-32).

A good final question

What happens after the father speaks to the older son? Jesus does not say. Invite children to notice the open ending rather than supplying an invented answer.

For home or next class

Read Luke 15:20 and 15:31-32 together. Draw two doorways: one for the younger son returning, and one for the older son outside. What does the father say or do at each doorway?

Teacher note: Jesus tells a parable, not a report of a named family. Crow Wall's path and cards are learning aids. Do not turn the older brother into a villain or require children to disclose personal family struggles.