

# LORD, TEACH ME TO PRAY

## Lesson One:

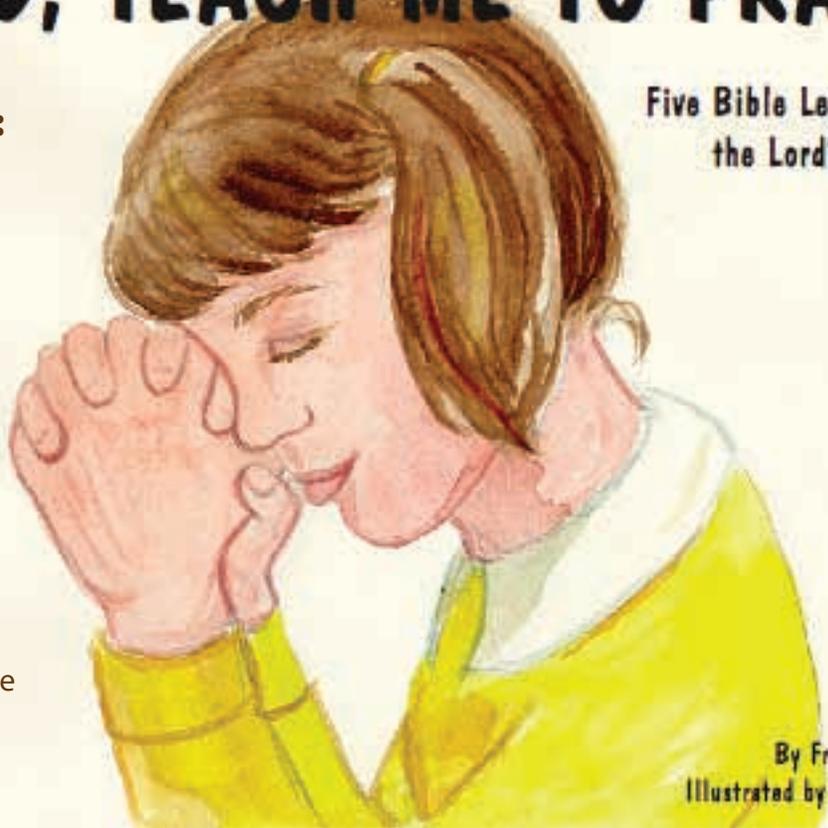
### Our Father in Heaven

Scripture:  
Luke 11:1-4,  
15:11-24

Main Aim:  
Love others  
with patience  
and kindness

Memory Verse:  
"Love is patient,  
love is kind,...love  
never fails."  
(1 Corinthians  
13:4,8)

Five Bible Lessons on  
the Lord's Prayer



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Illustrated by Sue Castor

*(Keep visuals face down until indicated)*  
Today we will begin our first Bible lesson on the Lord's prayer. Praying is simply talking to God. Let's begin our time together by praying.  
*(Pray the following prayer or use your own words)*

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the Bible, which teaches us about prayer. Thank You for the way You love us and want us to pray to You. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.

Long before this world was made, there was God. He has always been; no one made Him. Here is something that's true but hard to understand: God is one God, but three persons in one God. *(Hold up three fingers and point to each finger as you say each name)*

The names of the three persons are God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

One day Jesus left heaven and came to our earth. Many people celebrate the birth of baby Jesus at Christmas. But Jesus didn't stay a baby; He grew into a man. Some people followed Him and believed He was God from heaven. They were called disciples. Jesus' disciples saw that Jesus prayed a lot.

They wanted to pray like Him. So they asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray!"

Here is what Jesus said:

"When you pray, say:

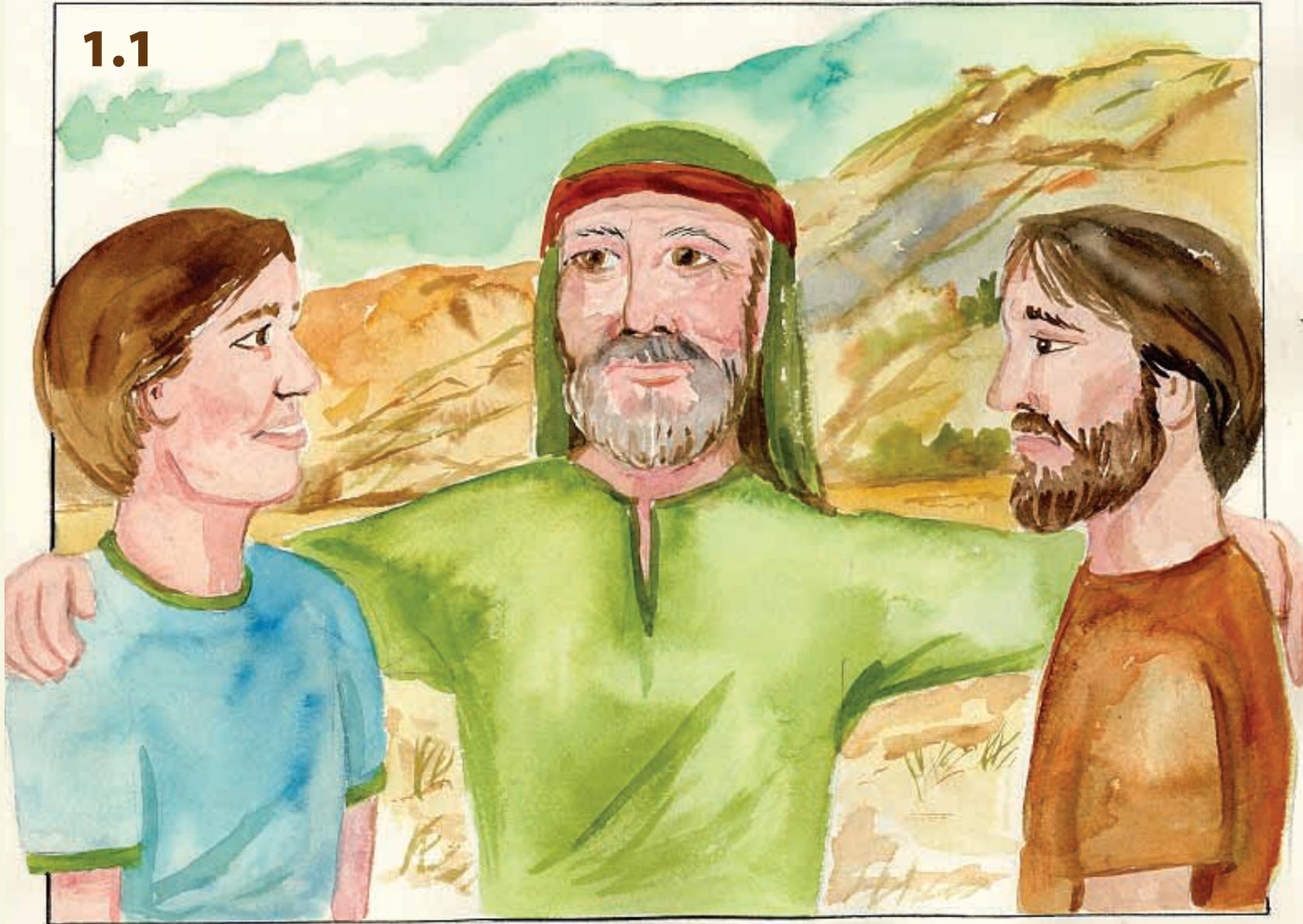
*(read the Lord's Prayer poster)"*

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**(Point to the poster and wait for a child to answer) To whom did Jesus say we should pray? Yes, to our Father in heaven. Today we are going to learn more about God the Father and what He is like.**

**What do you think our Father in heaven is like? Do you think He is mean and likes to punish people for doing wrong? Do you think God doesn't care and isn't watching us? Listen carefully to our Bible lesson today to see what our Father in heaven is really like.**

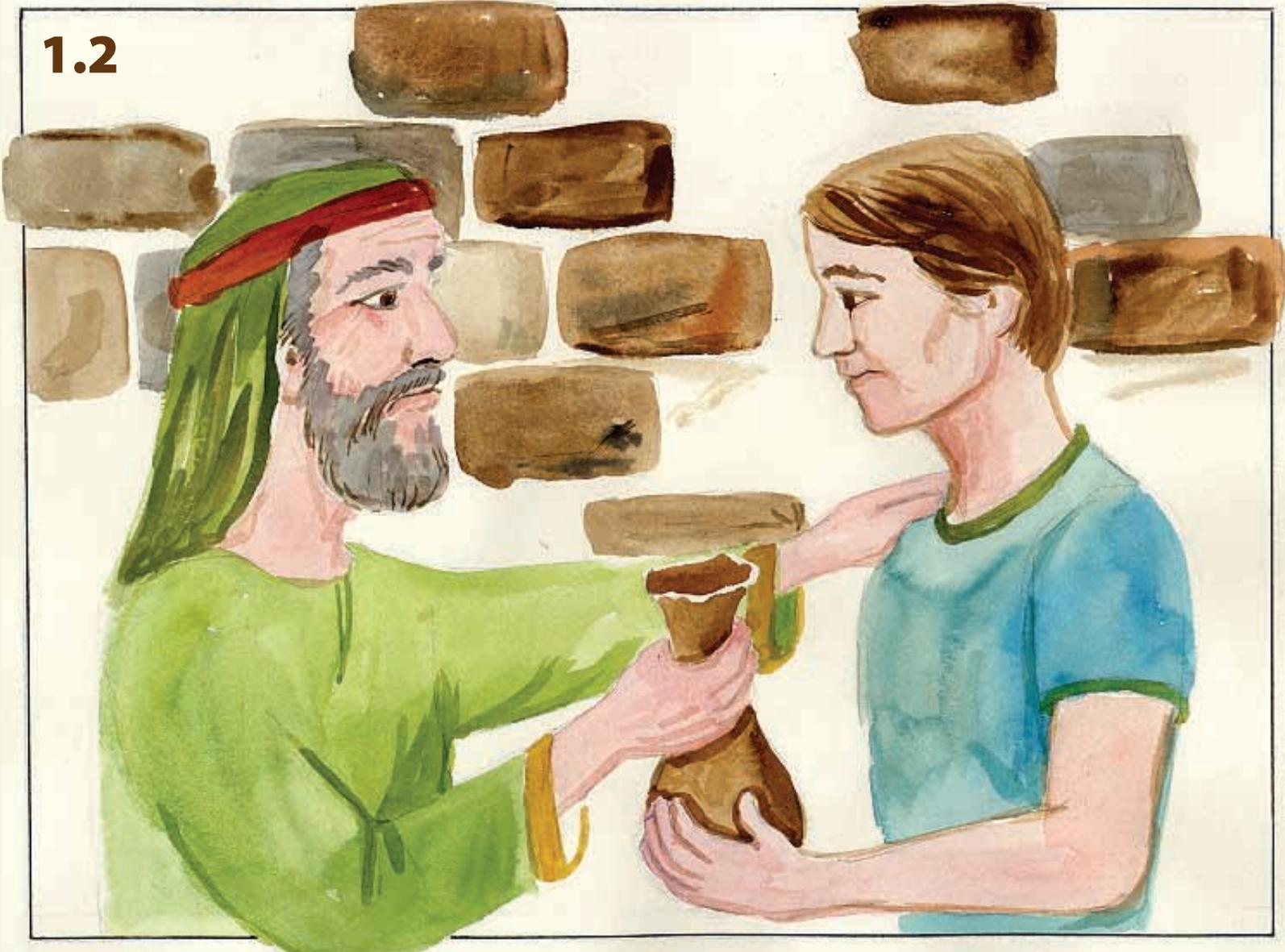
1.1



Jesus told a story about a man who had two sons. The man owned a large farm and had many servants who worked for him. He was a kind, loving man who cared a lot for his children and his servants.

One day the younger son said to his father, "Dad, someday your money will belong to me, but I want it now." Was that a nice thing to say to his dad? No! He was thinking only of himself and what he wanted. But did his father give it to him? (*Show visual 1.1*)

1.2



The Bible says: "So he divided his property between them." Yes, the father gave his son what he wanted.

Boys and girls, we get to see a little bit of what our Heavenly Father is like. This father was very patient and kind to his son. Our Heavenly Father shows love towards His children by being kind and patient to them. If you are a child of God, you need to be like your Heavenly Father. You need to love others with patience and kindness. (*Show visual 1.2*)

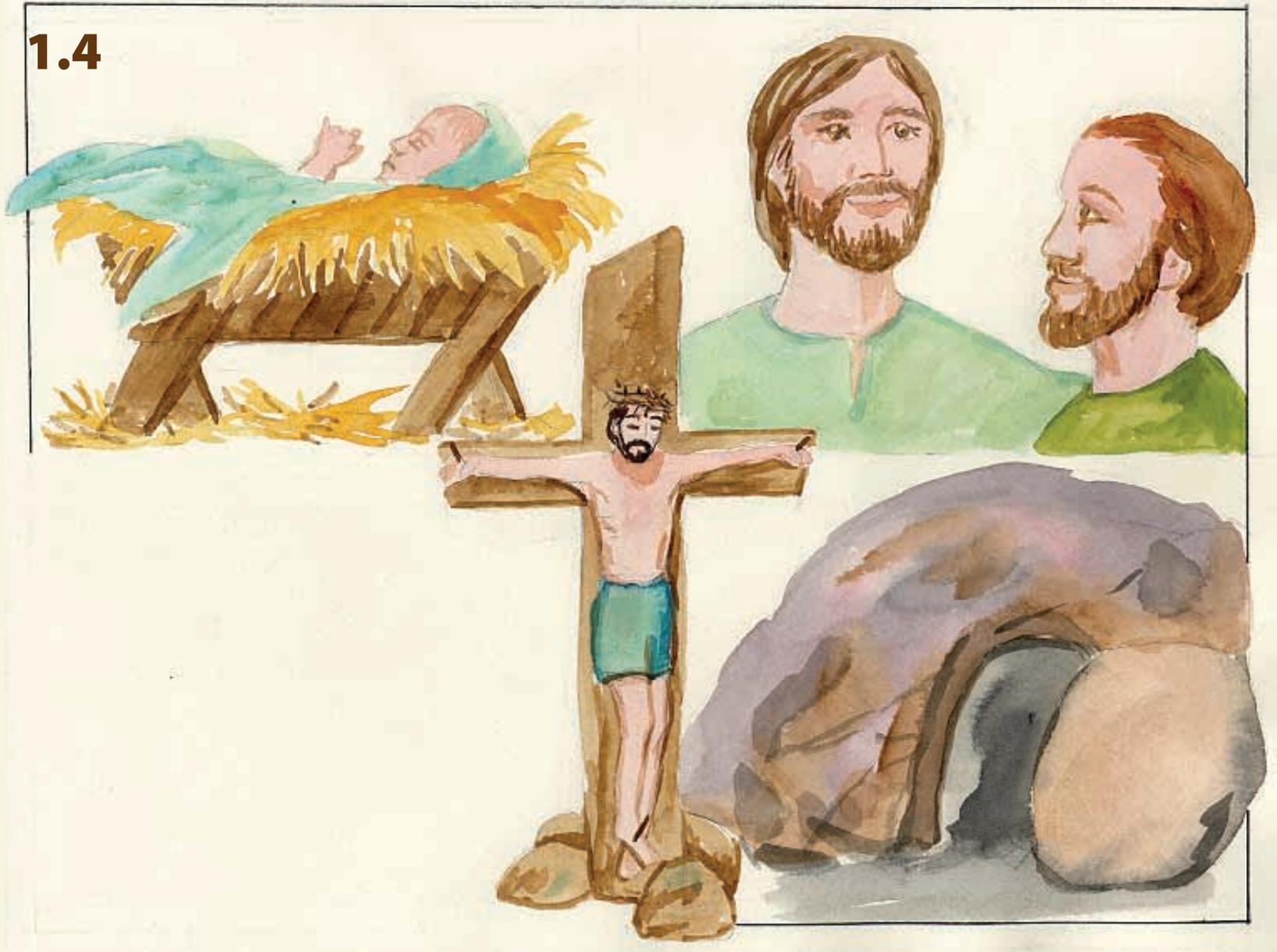
# 1.3

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 13:4,8: “Love is patient, love is kind,...love never fails.” (***Allow children to answer the following questions***) What does it mean to be patient? What is a way you can be patient with someone else? Our verse says that the way to show real love is by being kind. What is a way that you can be kind to someone? Let’s sing our memory verse together. (***Sing memory verse***)

The father in our Bible lesson showed patience and kindness to his son by giving him the money. Listen to what the son does with it.

The Bible says, “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had and set off for a distant country.” He took the money, packed his bags, left his home, and went to a place far away. (***Show visual 1.3***)

# 1.4



This reminds me of Jesus, who left heaven and His Heavenly Father to come and live on this earth. Remember at the beginning of this lesson I said that many people celebrate the birth of baby Jesus at Christmas? *(Point to baby in manger)* Well, the reason Jesus left His Father was to do something good. He came to tell people He was God from heaven. *(Point to Jesus talking to a man)* He came to hang on a cross and die for our sins. *(Point to Jesus on cross)* He came to be raised from the dead and then to go back to heaven to His Father. *(Point to open tomb)* He left heaven to do good - to save you and to save me from the punishment of our sins. But the son in our Bible lesson didn't leave his father to do good. No, the Bible tells us that instead of buying another farm or carefully spending the money, the son spent his money foolishly. *(Show visual 1.4)*



Food, friends, and fun—oh, he had lots of fun—while it lasted! His fun came to a quick end when he ran out of money and his friends left him. Also the whole country was running out of food. The son was looking for a way to find something to eat. Finally, someone let him take care of their pigs.

This foolish son did wrong. He is a sinner. To sin is to be wrong in the way you think or act. The Bible says: “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). You and I are sinners for there are many things that we do wrong. Can you name some things we do that show we are sinners? *(Invite a variety of answers)* Jesus was the only person who ever lived on this earth without sinning. *(Show visual 1.5)*

## 1.6



While he was out in the fields feeding the pigs, he was so hungry that he felt like eating the pigs' food! He was so hungry, but no one shared with him. He started thinking about home. Even the servants who worked for his father had good food to eat. He knew he had done something wrong to his dad. Then he got an idea. "What if I go back home? I will say to my father, 'Father, I was wrong! I have sinned. Can I just work for you?'" The son remembered how kind and patient his father was. Remember what our memory verse says? Love is patient, love is kind, ...love never fails. After the son thought about his home, the Bible tells us that he got up and went to his father.

While he was still a long way off, his father saw him walking toward home. The father was so glad to see his son that he ran to meet him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. (*Show visual 1.6*)

# 1.7



The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I didn't act like a good son." Right away, the father called to his servants, "Quick, bring some nice clothes for my son to wear. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet...Let's have a feast and celebrate. My son was lost but now he is found!"

Yes, boys and girls, the father welcomed this child home, not just as a servant, but as a son. Not only that, but he had a big party to celebrate his son's homecoming and gave him the best robe he had.

The father in this story is a beautiful picture of what our Heavenly Father is like: loving, patient, and kind. Whenever we go to our Heavenly Father for anything, He will always treat us with patience and kindness. He will never fail us.

If you are God's child, are you willing to love others as God loves you and them, with patience and kindness? In a moment we are going to pray together. When we do, you can ask God to help you love others with patience and kindness.

Maybe today you realized for the first time that you have sinned and you are like the son in our Bible lesson who is far away from his father. Sin separates you from our Heavenly Father. If you can't remember a time when you asked God to forgive you of your sins and make you His child, listen carefully to the Good News puppet. (*Show visual 1.7*)

*(Read poem or play CD while working the Good News puppet.*

*When finished, put puppet down)*

**Howdy, kids, I'm glad to see  
You came today to NBC.  
I've got some news I need to tell,  
So listen close, and listen well.**

**Jesus loves you, this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
The pain He felt when He died for you  
Was for your sin, oh yes, it's true!**

**(Have puppet hold up a cherry jellybean)  
Look at the color of cherry and see  
The blood of Jesus on a tree.  
Just for you, he suffered and died.  
His blood poured out from His side.**

**Good News, Good News, believe it's true!  
He's alive in heaven and looks for you  
To become God's child by trusting in Him.  
Believe that Jesus takes away your sin.**

**"Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12).**

**Would you like to become God's child today? If so, after we pray and sing our theme song, come and tell me. Everyone, bow your head.**

*(Pray the following prayer or in your own words ask God to help the children love others with patience and kindness. Pray also for those children wanting to become God's children.)*

**Dear Heavenly Father, we are so glad to know that You love us and are patient and kind to all who come to You. As Your children we need to be patient and kind to others. Show us ways in which we can do that and forgive us for the many times that we have not been patient and kind.**

**I pray also for those children who have never put their trust in Jesus. Help them to take that important step today. Boys and girls, if you want to become God's child, raise your hand now so that I will know who you are. (Acknowledge them and have them put their hands down) If you raised your hand, come up to me after we sing, and you can make that important choice today.**

**Thank You, Father, for today's Bible lesson. Now be pleased to hear us sing this song to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**Let's sing our theme song together.**

*(Sing "Lord, Teach Me to Pray," and then remind those children who want to become God's children to come and tell you)*

**(Optional: Send all the children home after club with cherry jellybeans, reminding them of the blood Jesus shed for them by dying on the cross for their sins. Suggest that they share the meaning with others.)**