

The Broken Window

Boots liked to collect rocks. Wherever he went, he brought home pretty rocks that he found. Today Mother had taken the children to the park. They played on the swings and explored along the trail around the park, where Boots found three pretty rocks.

That afternoon, Boots took his rocks into the back yard to play. "I wonder how far I can throw these rocks," Boots thought. He threw one that almost touched the neighbors' fence. Then he threw another rock even harder. Boots threw the last rock as hard as he could. It went over the fence, but it hit the window on Mrs. Hodges's shed. Crash! It broke the window!

Boots was afraid, so he went to his room. He thought about how disappointed Daddy would be. When Daddy came home from work, Boots did not meet him with a hug as he usually did. He stayed in his room.

Daddy went into Boots's room. Boots started to cry. "I'm sorry, Daddy, I didn't mean to do it."

"Didn't mean to do what?" Daddy asked.



"Break Mrs. Hodges's window. You told me not to throw rocks, but I threw them anyway and I broke the window."

"Well," said Daddy, "you will have to tell Mrs. Hodges." Together they walked over to her house and rang the doorbell.

When Mrs. Hodges opened the door, Boots said, "I'm sorry that I broke the window in your shed."

"If it is all right with you, I'll measure it for a new piece of glass and fix it for you this evening," said Daddy.

"That will be fine," said Mrs. Hodges.

When Boots and Daddy got home, Daddy told Boots that he would have to use his own money to fix the window. "But I was saving the money for a new ball," said Boots.

"I know, Boots," said Daddy. "But when you break something that belongs to someone else, you must fix it."

Boots knew that Daddy was right. "I'm sorry," said Boots.

"I know," said Daddy. Boots and Daddy went to the hardware store and bought a piece of glass. Boots stayed with Daddy while he fixed the window. "Daddy, I am sorry I disobeyed you and threw the rocks. Will you please forgive me?"

Daddy reached down and put his arm around Boots. "Boots," he said, "I was sad that you disobeyed me, but I love you and forgive you." Daddy held Boots's hand as they walked back home.

Joyful Life

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Little Hands
Do His Will

Prodigal Son Comes Home



Name _____

Prodigal Son Comes Home



Read Me
a Story

Luke 15:11-32

A Thought for Parents

Forgiveness is a wonderful gift we have been given by God, and a gift that we can give to our children. When your children disobey and show they are sorry, they need to know your forgiveness. Following punishment, take them in your arms and express your love for them. Just as God loves us, we love our children even though we must punish disobedience.

One day Jesus told a story about a boy who learned a hard lesson:

Once there was a father who had two sons. He loved his sons and gave them everything they needed. Soon the boys grew up. The older son was happy to stay on the farm and help his father, but the younger son was tired of living on the farm, and tired of obeying his father.

"I want to get away and see the world," the younger son told his father. He asked his father for his share of money. The father was sad that his younger son wanted to leave home, but he gave him the money and the younger son left. Every day the father looked down the road, hoping to see his son coming home.

The younger son went to a city far away. He bought new clothes and had big parties and made new friends. He was glad to be away from his father's farm. He did many things that made God sad.

But, one day his money was all gone. Then his friends left, too. He had no food. He got a job feeding pigs, and he was so hungry that he ate the pig's food. Then he started to think about his father. "I wish I had never left home! I thought living in the city would be so much fun, but I'm not happy," he thought to himself. And right then, he decided to go back home.

His clothes were old now, and he was dirty and hungry. After he had walked many days, the son saw his father's farm. He had not gone far down the road when he saw something that made him very happy. His father was *running* toward him with arms wide open! His father threw his arms around him and kissed him. "I'm so glad you've come home!"

"Oh, Father," cried the son, "I have done wrong. I have been so bad. Just let me be one of your servants."

But the father told his servants, "Go quickly! Get my best robe and put it on my son! Get a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet. Go fix a wonderful meal, and let's celebrate! My son who was lost has come home!"

Jesus told this story to teach us something wonderful about God. He loves us, even when we do wrong. When we are sorry for doing wrong, our Heavenly Father always forgives us. What a wonderful, loving God we have!

Color the son and the pig



"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

—John 10:11