

## The Lost Son

### Equipment needed:

- Printer (all resources attached require printing- if you do not have access to a printer, please contact emmajane@stph.org.uk)
- Colour pens/pencils
- Glue Sticks

### Story:

Please find story attached. Once having read the story, engage in wondering questions with the children to help them understand and remember the story.

### Wondering Questions:

- Do we think the son should have taken his dad's money? Was this a nice thing to do?
- What do you think the father was feeling when his son left? Was he sad, angry, happy, lonely?
- How do you think the son felt when he was living with the pigs? Sad? Lonely? Dirty?
- Do you think the father should forgive the son, and welcome him home? (This always brings out different responses, and is a great opportunity to share that Jesus teaches us to always forgive)
- Do you think the father should have thrown a party for his son?
- Why is forgiveness so important?

### Craft:

This week's craft entails colouring, sticking and cutting! You will be making the father ready to welcome his son back with open arms. Please find attached instructions and all templates necessary for this task.

### Activity:

A maze activity sheet is attached, help your children lead the lost son back to his father.

A colouring sheet of the father greeting his lost son is attached.

### Game:

An animation of the lost son is attached, print once or numerous times (depending on your preference) and hide the son around the home. Once complete, send your children round the home to help find the missing son(s).

### Snack time:

A party for the lost son - help your children prepare a party for the lost son. Create this however you wish, with yummy treats, party plates, whatever makes you want to celebrate - perhaps you could make some decorations!

## The Story of the Lost Son

A long time ago there was a father and two sons, the sons lived with the father and they would work all day. However, one afternoon the youngest son said to the father *'one day, I will be given everything you own!'*, the father replied *'yes son, one day you will, when I am too weak to work anymore'*. The son didn't want to wait that long to have everything his father had, so he demanded *'Father, I want right now what's coming to me, I want to be rich.'* The father sighed, but decided to let the son take half of his money, as the other half will go to his other son at the right time.

The youngest son took all the money and ran off! He was so excited to see the world and live off of his father's money. However, he didn't think the money would run out so quickly, he had been spending so much on all the things he wanted, he forgot to save some for food! There wasn't a lot of food in the country, and with no money, he really couldn't get ANY food. The youngest son's belly began to rumble and he began to hurt. He thought *'I must work'*, so he found himself working with pigs! He was so hungry he would have eaten the corn cobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

Whilst his belly rumbled, he thought of his Father. He said *'All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've made such a big mistake, I have wronged you and God! I'm so sorry, please forgive me!'* He got right up and went home to his father.

After a very long and tiring walk, he could see his father's house in the distance! His Father could see someone coming to his home, and suddenly realised it was his lost son!! His heart pounding, he ran out, hugged him, and kissed him. The youngest son tried to tell his father how sorry he was, how he had made such a big mistake!...But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the helpers, *'Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Then begin to cook the food, we're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here, he was lost and now found! And they began to have a party.'*

All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day's work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the helpers, he asked *'what was going on?'* He told him, *'Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast and party because he has him home safe and sound.'*

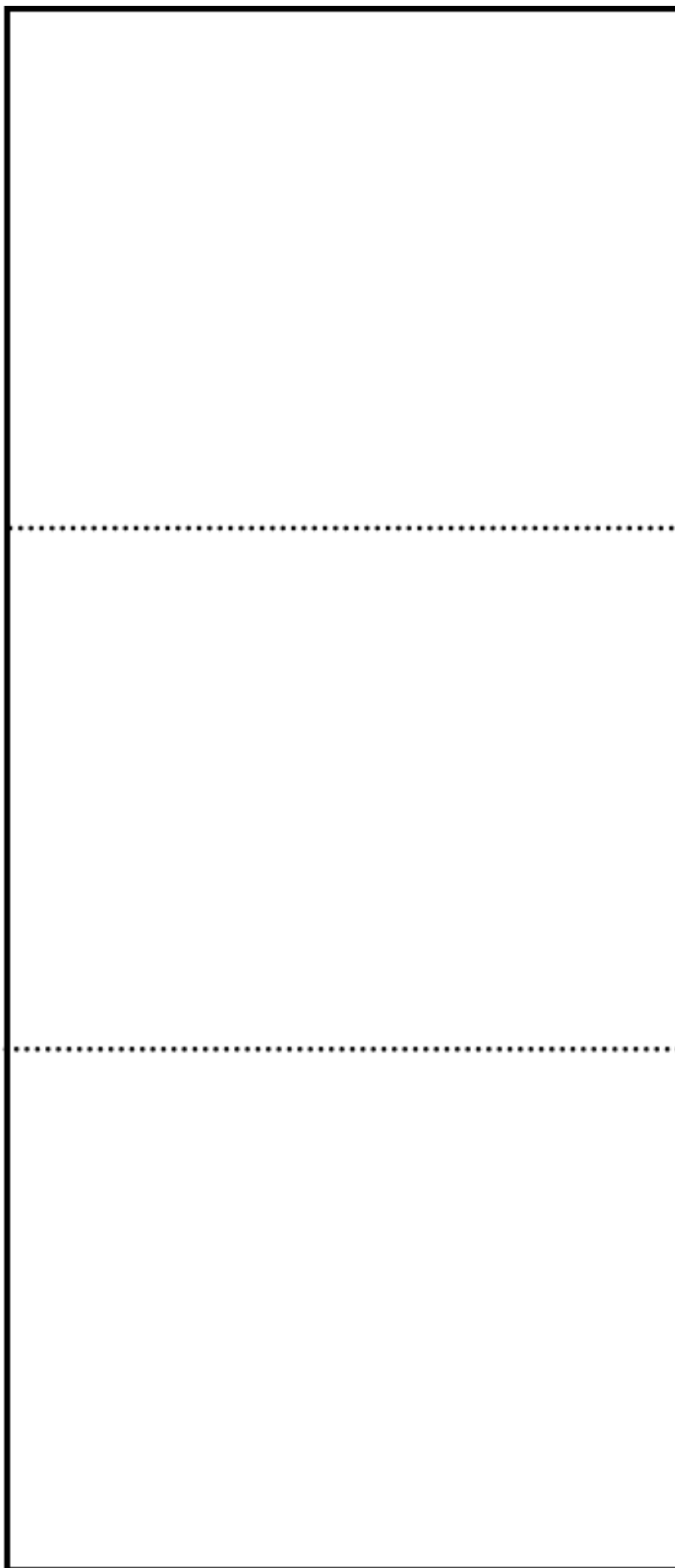
The older brother walked off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn't listen. The son said, *'Look how many years I've stayed here working for you, never moaning at you, or trying to steal your money, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on rubbish shows up and you go all out with a feast!'*

His father said, *'Son, you don't understand. You're with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was lost, and he's found - we must forgive and celebrate with a party!'*

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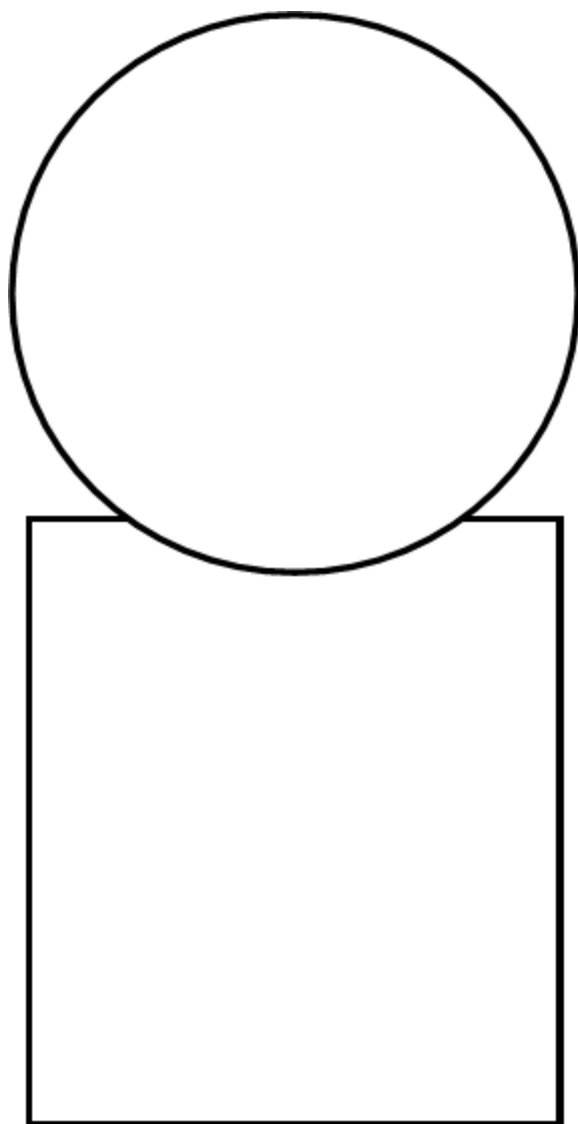
**Craft:**

- 1) Cut out the template, and fold across the dotted lines.



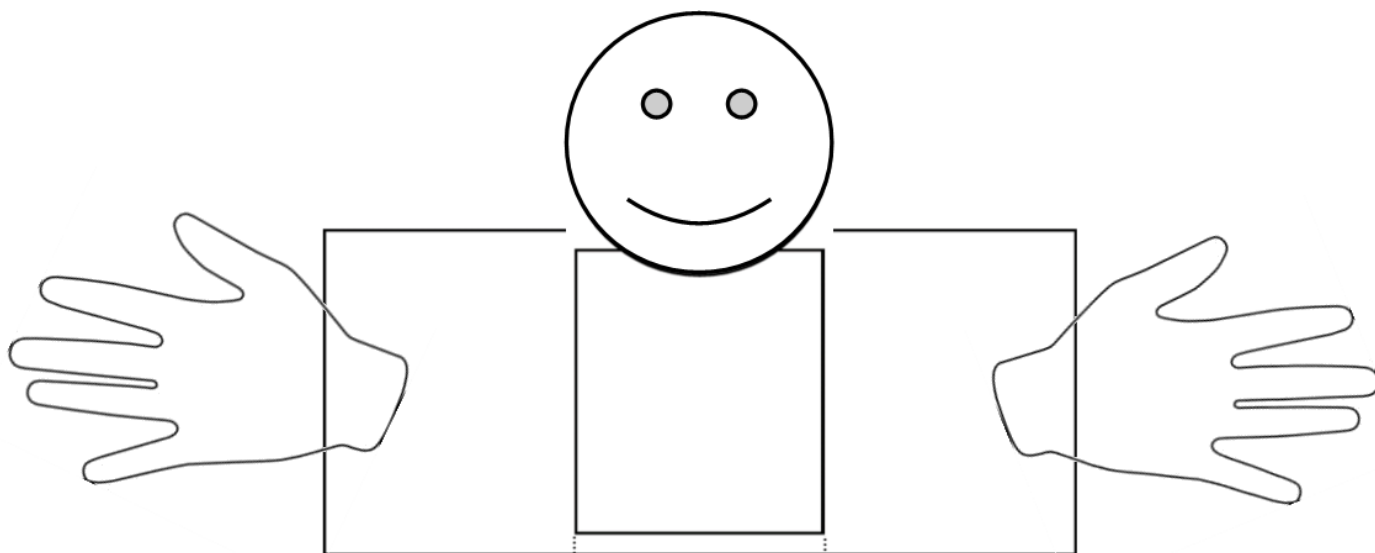
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2) Draw the fathers face in the circle, colouring the body how you wish. Once complete, cut the template out and stick the square body on the middle section of the first template you cut and folded.



3) Use this page to allow your children to draw round their hands. They can decorate their hand outlines how they wish. Once complete, cut the hand templates out and stick each hand to each edge of the original three folded template.

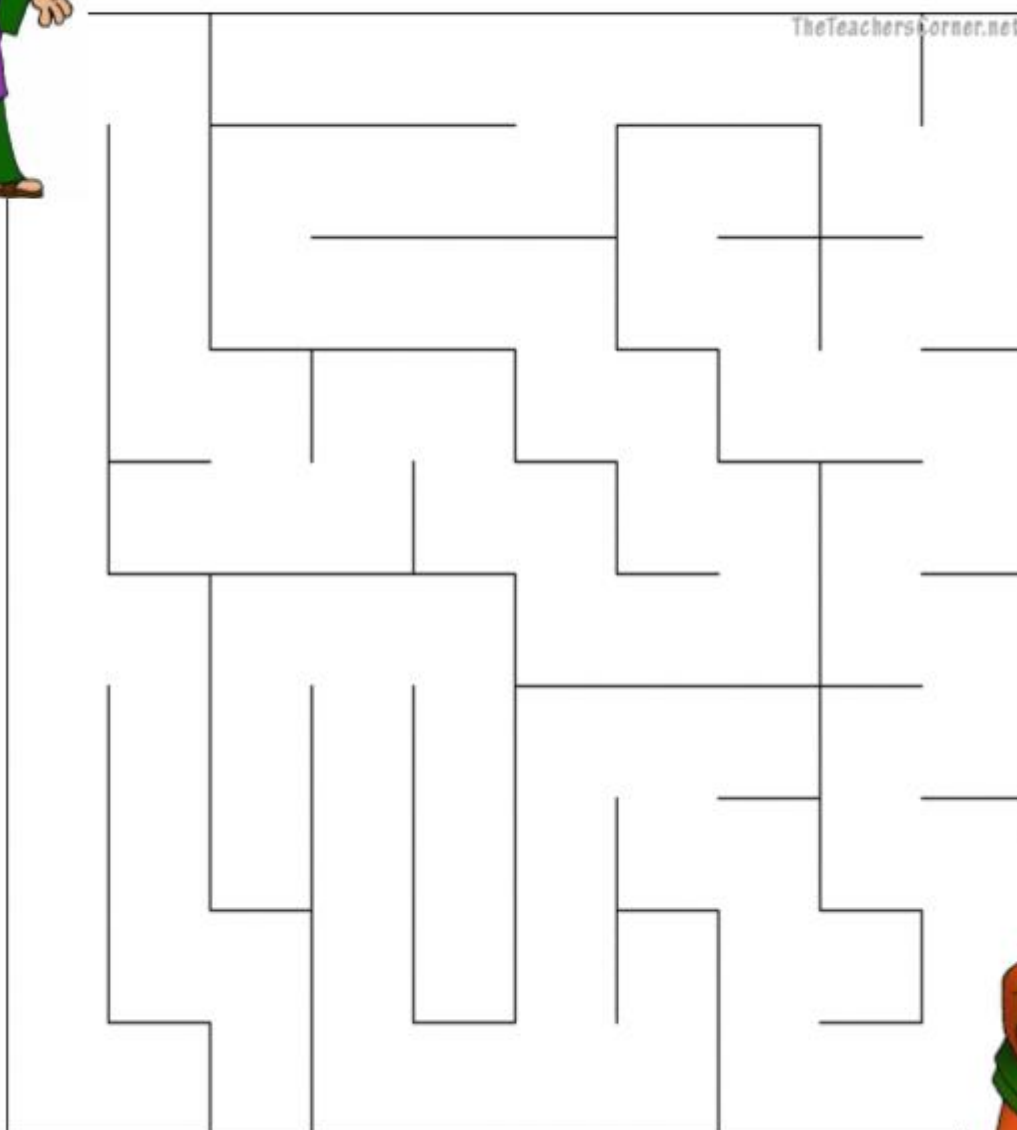
4) Once complete, it should appear as below. When standing up, will appear as the father welcoming his son.



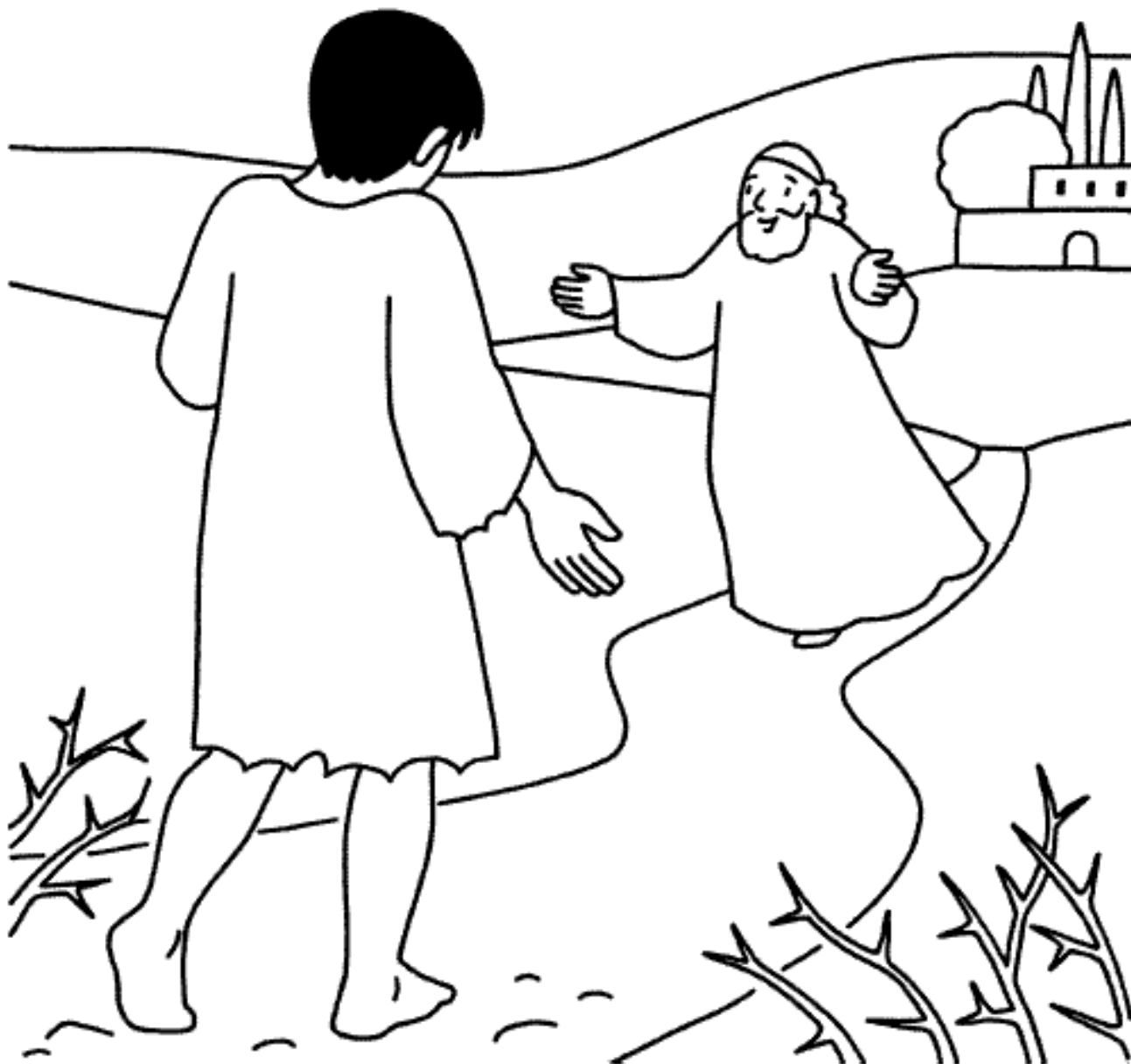
Activity Sheets:

## The Lost Son Maze

Can you help the lost son find his  
father?



## The Lost Son colouring sheet





Game print out:

