

Flipping for Lent

1. **Read Luke 15:11, 20-24** or read the Featured Story on pages 1620–1621 in *The Catholic Children's Bible* together.
2. **Gather the following items:** one square sheet of white paper for each child (the larger the square, the larger the flip game), and a pencil or marker for each child (Note: The paper must be exactly square for this game to work.)
3. **Brainstorm with the children,** asking how we can live our faith and grow closer to Jesus during Lent. What special something can we do for someone else?
4. **Distribute a square sheet of paper to each child.** As you demonstrate the following folds, ask the children to do the same with their squares of paper. Placing the square on the desk, fold the paper by taking the two corners that are closest and joining the pointed corners in the center of the square. Explain that pressing down the fold will make a tight fold. Do the same with the other two corners.
5. **Now have the children turn the paper over** so that the folds are face down. Instruct them to take each pointed corner and make a tight fold towards the center of the square. The children should have a perfect square. Keeping the fold facing them, instruct the children to fold the square in half so there are two open flaps facing up. Now have them turn the folded paper over to see the other two open flaps.
6. **On the top flaps,** ask the children to write words associated with Lent (for example: *Lent, forty, Jesus, cross*). For the flip game, they choose a word and spell it as they move their fingers for each letter. Inside the top flaps, the children write numbers 1 through 8. In the game, they will choose a number and move their fingers for that amount.
7. **Direct the children** to refer to the list of ideas gathered at the brainstorming session. Have them choose eight different ways they want to live and grow in their faith during Lent. Instruct them to write these ideas on the eight inside hidden triangle flaps.



8. **Demonstrate the finger-flip game.**

Have the children place their pointer fingers in the two front flaps and their thumbs in the two back flaps. Direct them to move their fingers together to close the paper square completely. Show them how to stretch their thumbs and pointer fingers at the same time to open and close the folded game. Then, moving their fingers and keeping a tight hold inside the flaps, tell them

to gently pull their hands apart to open the folded game in the other direction. (Allow the children to get familiar with these movements and to be careful not to tear the paper.) After the children spell a word on the top flap and count a number from the inside flap, ask them to choose another number and lift the flap to reveal the activity they will do for that week of Lent.

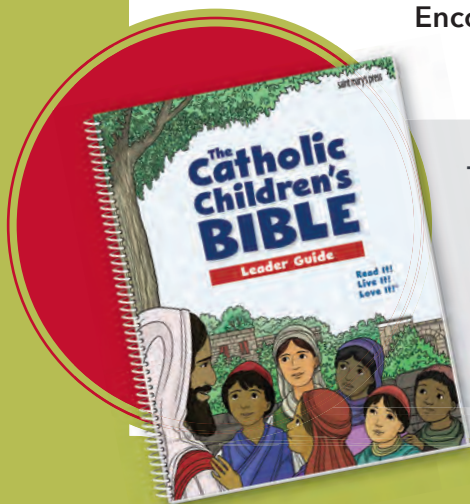
Process the Activity

Encourage the children to use this game each week (or daily) during Lent as a reminder of their choices to live and grow in their faith.

This activity is adapted from Chapter 10
of *The Catholic Children's Bible* Leader Guide.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT **THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S BIBLE**
AND ITS COMPONENTS

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The Forgiving Father

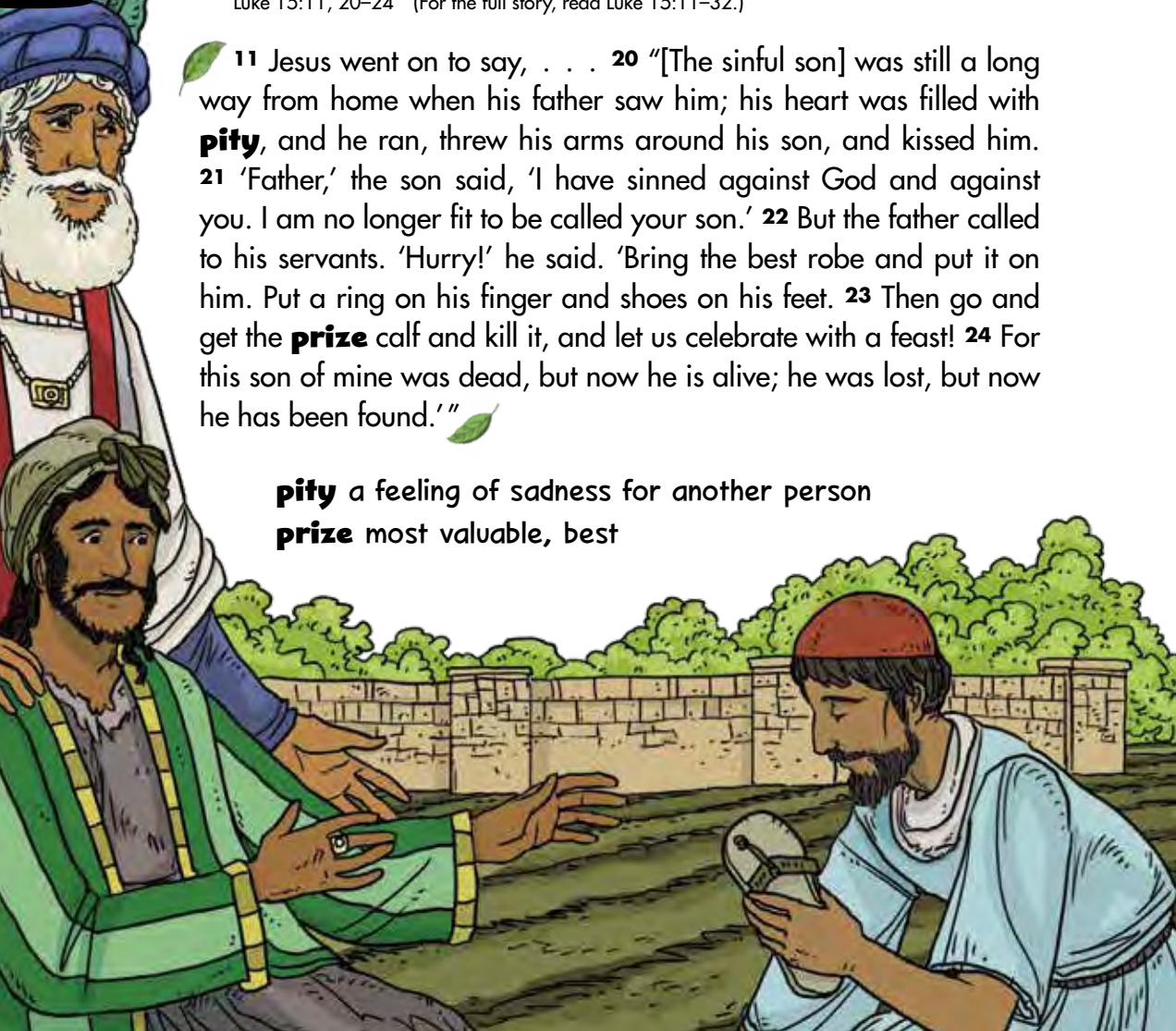


Luke 15:11, 20–24 (For the full story, read Luke 15:11–32.)

11 Jesus went on to say, . . . 20 “[The sinful son] was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his heart was filled with **pity**, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. 21 ‘Father,’ the son said, ‘I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.’ 22 But the father called to his servants. ‘Hurry!’ he said. ‘Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. 23 Then go and get the **prize** calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! 24 For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.’”

pity a feeling of sadness for another person

prize most valuable, best



Understand it!

This story Jesus told could be called "A Foolish Son and His Big-Hearted Father." This son asked his dad for a lot of money and then left home. He wasted every penny. When he was starving because he had no money left, he wanted to go home.

The father could have been angry. Instead, he loved his son so much that he ran to meet him. The father hugged his son even before the son said he was sorry. The father was so happy to have his son back that he gave him a gift. He held a big party to welcome him home. Jesus wants us to know that our Father in Heaven is like this loving father. No matter how much we sin, God will always love us and forgive us. He always welcomes us back when we turn to him.

STORY
Luke 15

Live It!

Think about a time when you behaved in a way that upset your mom or dad. What did you do to let them know you were sorry? How did they react? God is like a loving parent. He always welcomes us back when we turn to him after we've disobeyed his commandments. Thank God for loving you like the father in the story.

Tell It!



1



2



3



4

Using the pictures above, retell this story in your own words.

Following Jesus

7

Reading Plan

to build but can't finish the job!' they will say. **31** If a king goes out with ten thousand men to fight another king who comes against him with twenty thousand men, he will sit down first and decide if he is strong enough to face that other king. **32** If he isn't, he will send messengers to meet the other king to ask for terms of peace while he is still a long way off. **33** In the same way," concluded Jesus, "none of you can be my disciple unless you give up everything you have."

Worthless Salt

34 "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. **35** It is no good for the soil or for the manure pile; it is thrown away. Listen, then, if you have ears!"

The Lost Sheep

15 ¹ One day when many tax collectors and other outcasts came to listen to Jesus, ² the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law started grumbling, "This man welcomes outcasts and even eats with them!" ³ So Jesus told them this parable:

⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them—what do you do? You leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the pasture and go looking for the one that got lost until you find it. ⁵ When you find it, you are so happy that you put it on your shoulders ⁶ and carry it back home. Then you call your friends and neighbors together and say to them, 'I am so happy I found my lost sheep. Let us celebrate!' ⁷ In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine respectable people who do not need to repent."

The Lost Coin

8 "Or suppose a woman who has ten silver coins loses one of them—what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps her house, and looks carefully everywhere until she finds it. **9** When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, and says to them, 'I am so happy I found the coin I lost. Let us celebrate!' **10** In the same way, I tell you, the angels of God rejoice over one sinner who repents."

The Lost Son

11 Jesus went on to say, "There was once a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to him, 'Father, give me my share of the property now.' So the man divided his property between his two sons. **13** After a few days the younger son sold his part of the property and left home with the money. He went to a country far away, where he wasted his money in reckless living. **14** He spent everything he had. Then a severe famine spread over that country, and he was left without a thing. **15** So he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him out to his farm to take care of the pigs. **16** He wished he could fill himself with the bean pods the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything to eat. **17** At last he came to his senses and said, 'All my father's hired workers have more than they can eat, and here I am about to starve! **18** I will get up and go to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. **19** I am no longer fit to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired workers."' **20** So he got up and started back to his father."

"He was still a long way from home when his father saw him; his

heart was filled with pity, and he ran, threw his arms around his son, and kissed him. **21** 'Father,' the son said, 'I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son.' **22** But the father called to his servants. 'Hurry!' he said. 'Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. **23** Then go and get the prize calf and kill it, and let us celebrate with a feast! **24** For this son of mine was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.' And so the feasting began.

25 "In the meantime the older son was out in the field. On his way back, when he came close to the house, he heard the music and dancing. **26** So he called one of the servants and asked him, 'What's going on?' **27** 'Your brother has come back home,' the servant answered, 'and your father has killed the prize calf, because he got him back safe and sound.' **28** The older brother was so angry that he would not go into the house; so his father came out and begged him to come in. **29** But he spoke back to his father, 'Look, all these years I have worked for you like a slave, and I have never disobeyed your orders. What have you given me? Not even a goat for me to have a feast with my friends! **30** But this son of yours wasted all your property on prostitutes, and when he comes back home, you kill the prize calf for him!' **31** 'My son,' the father answered, 'you are always here with me, and everything I have is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and be happy, because your brother was dead, but now he is alive; he was lost, but now he has been found.' "

The Shrewd Manager

16 ¹ Jesus said to his disciples, "There was once a rich man who had a servant who managed his property. The rich man was told that the manager was wasting his master's money, ² so he called him in and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Turn in a complete account of your handling of my property, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ The servant said to himself, 'My master is going to dismiss me from my job. What shall I do? I am not strong enough to dig ditches, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ Now I know what I will do! Then when my job is gone, I shall have friends who will welcome me in their homes.' ⁵ So he called in all the people who were in debt to his master. He asked the first one, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ 'One hundred barrels of olive oil,' he answered. 'Here is your account,' the manager told him; 'sit down and write fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another one, 'And you—how much do you owe?' 'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he answered. 'Here is your account,' the manager told him; 'write eight hundred.' ⁸ As a result the master of this dishonest manager praised him for doing such a shrewd thing; because the people of this world are much more shrewd in handling their affairs than the people who belong to the light."

⁹ And Jesus went on to say, "And so I tell you: make friends for yourselves with worldly wealth, so that when it gives out, you will be welcomed in the eternal home. ¹⁰ Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful in