



# The Stories Jesus Told: The lost son: a story about families, parties and forgiveness

By Lisa Debney

**Actions: On the repeated verse, use the Makaton signs for ‘party’, ‘fun’, ‘celebrate’ and ‘everyone’.**

There was a man who had two sons:  
an older and a younger one.  
The younger one left home  
with half his dad’s money,  
and he moved to a place  
where the sun was always sunny.  
And as soon as he got there, he said...

**Let’s have a party, let’s have fun!  
Let’s celebrate with everyone!**

He partied all day and he partied all night;  
he spent Dad’s money, which wasn’t right,  
and he ended up broke, and all alone,  
and really wished he was back home.  
And he said...

**I can’t have a party, I can’t have fun.  
And where on earth is everyone?**

He ran out of money; he ran out of food.  
He was cold and hungry and in a bad mood,  
and the only job he could find nearby  
was feeding the pigs in a smelly pig sty.  
And after a few days of that, he said...

**This is no party, this isn’t fun.  
And I’m really smelly, everyone!**

What can I do? I need a plan.  
I think my Dad’s a reasonable man.  
The first thing I need to do is say sorry:  
I got it wrong, you must have been worried.

Just give me a job, I'll work for you,  
I'll work as hard as the others do.  
**I don't need parties, I don't need fun.  
I'd just like to be with everyone.**

Back at the home his Dad saw a figure,  
it started off small and began to get bigger,  
and he shaded his eyes from the glare of the sun  
and said, 'Wait a minute, that's my son!'  
**Let's have a party, let's have fun!  
Let's celebrate with everyone!**

And he ran to his son and he stretched his arms wide  
And said, 'Son, you're back, come on inside!  
We'll have a feast, we'll tell our friends  
this story has a happy end!'  
**Let's have a party, let's have fun!  
Let's celebrate with everyone!**

Then Dad looked across at his older son,  
who was looking cross, he was looking glum,  
and he said to his Dad, 'Dad, it's just not fair  
I've stayed right here, not gone anywhere.  
I've worked so hard and I've worked so long,  
and I haven't had a party in oh so long.'  
**Where's my party? Where's my fun?  
Have I been forgotten by everyone?**

And his Dad sighed and put his arm around his older son and said,  
Son, I know you're always here.  
To me you are so very dear.  
But your brother is back after losing his way.  
Isn't that worth celebrating?  
What do you say?  
And the son said...  
And the son said...  
And the son said...

Well, we don't know, but we hope the son found a way of forgiving his brother, just as his father had  
forgiven him and said...  
**Let's have a party, let's have fun!  
Let's celebrate with everyone!**

'cause...  
**It's a better a party, it's more fun,  
when we celebrate with everyone!**