Luke 15 forgiving the son.

[Narrator]Jesus liked to tell stories called parables. Parables are stories about what God hoped would happen. Jesus used them to teach us about God and how much God loves us. Jesus hoped that we would tell these parables to each other and talk about what God might be trying to teach us. That's what we're going to do today.

In our story are a grandchild and grandparent. The wise grandparent uses one of the stories of Jesus in a special way, a way that Jesus would be very happy with.

[Scene] Grandparent is in rocking chair, grandchild comes in looking very upset.

[Grandchild]I've had it with him.

[Grandparent] You've had it with who.

[Grandchild] With my friend() They told some stories about me in school today that weren't true and I didn't like it. Actually, the reason I came over was to see if you could help me.

[Grandparent] How do you think I could help?

[Grandchild] Well, I know you've seen a lot and know a lot and I thought that you could give me some ideas of how to get even. Maybe you could help me think up even meaner stories to tell about ().

[Grandparent] You know, I do understand what it's like when someone says mean things about you, I've had friends that said mean things about me.

[Grandchild] Who could say anything bad about you. You are the nicest kindest person I know. Sometimes I think that I'd like to live with you but Mom and Dad probably wouldn't let me.

[Grandparent] Well Thank you, that's very nice but let's get back to your problem. Let's think about what Jesus might say.

[Grandchild] How do I do that?

[Grandparent] Let's try this. Why don't you tell me your favorite Jesus story and maybe it will help us to understand what Jesus might say or do.

[Grandchild] Well, Last week we heard the story about the son who told his dad he didn't want to live on the farm and went to live in the city. That won't help though because my Sunday school teacher said it was about God looking for us when we are lost.

[Grandparent] Well, that's the way that this story, it's called a parable, is usually used but Let's think this through. Let's use our imaginations to understand how the different people in the story might have felt and that will probably Tell us what Jesus would do or say. So tell me the story as you remember it.

[Grandchild] Well, there was this kid, well he'd grown up mostly and didn't want to work on his father's farm for the rest of his life. So he told his father to give him the money that he would get when his father died so he could get away.

[Grandparent] Great. Now, let's think a little. How do you think the father might have felt?

[Grandchild] Well, he'd probably be really hurt. After all, he hadn't done anything but take care of and love his son. Anyway, he gave his son the money and the son went to the city.

[Grandparent] You're doing great. What happened next.

[Grandchild] Well he spent all of his money really fast, and he had to go to work for another farmer.

[Grandparent] And how did that work out?

[Grandchild] Well, not so good. The farmer was mean, he didn't feed him and even made him work taking care of pigs. Jewish people aren't supposed to eat pigs. Did you know that?

[Grandparent] Yes, I did know that but it doesn't sound like the farmer knew that or maybe he didn't care.

[Grandchild] That's right. Anyway, the son realized that his father didn't treat people the way that he was being treated and decided to go home and ask if he could work for his dad like one of his workers.

[Grandparent] So the son came home and his father put him to work with the other hired men right?

[Grandchild] No!!!! He forgave him, he'd even been waiting and hoping that he would come home again. He even threw a great big party because his son was home and maybe things were going to be even better than before the son left.

[Grandparent] Why do you say that?

[Grandchild] Well, because living away from home showed the son what his father was really like.

[Grandparent] That's right. If the father didn't forgive things couldn't have changed, since he did forgive they could.

[Narrator] So as our young friend learned, the stories that Jesus told can teach us in many ways if we let them. They can show us how much God loves us and how God hopes that we will pass that love and forgiving along. After all, Forgiving is good.