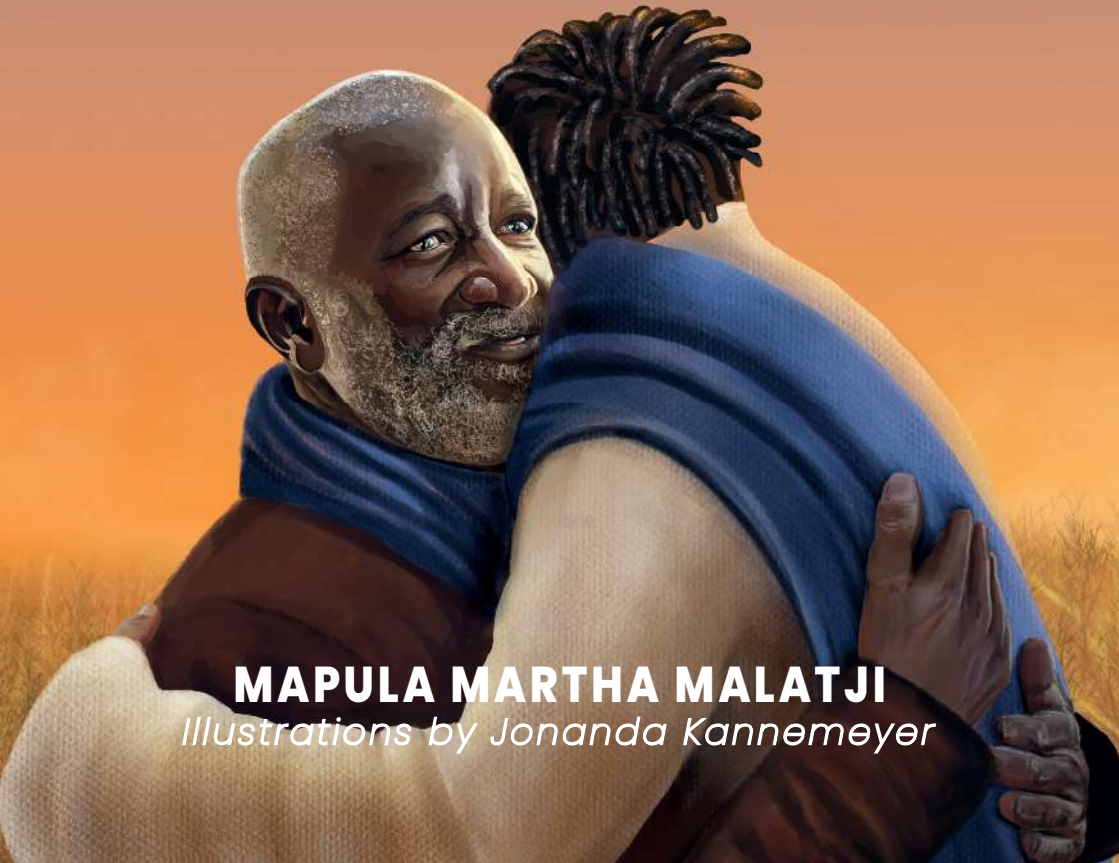


# THE SON

Who Came Home



**MAPULA MARTHA MALATJI**

*Illustrations by Jonanda Kannemeyer*

## **THE SON WHO CAME HOME**

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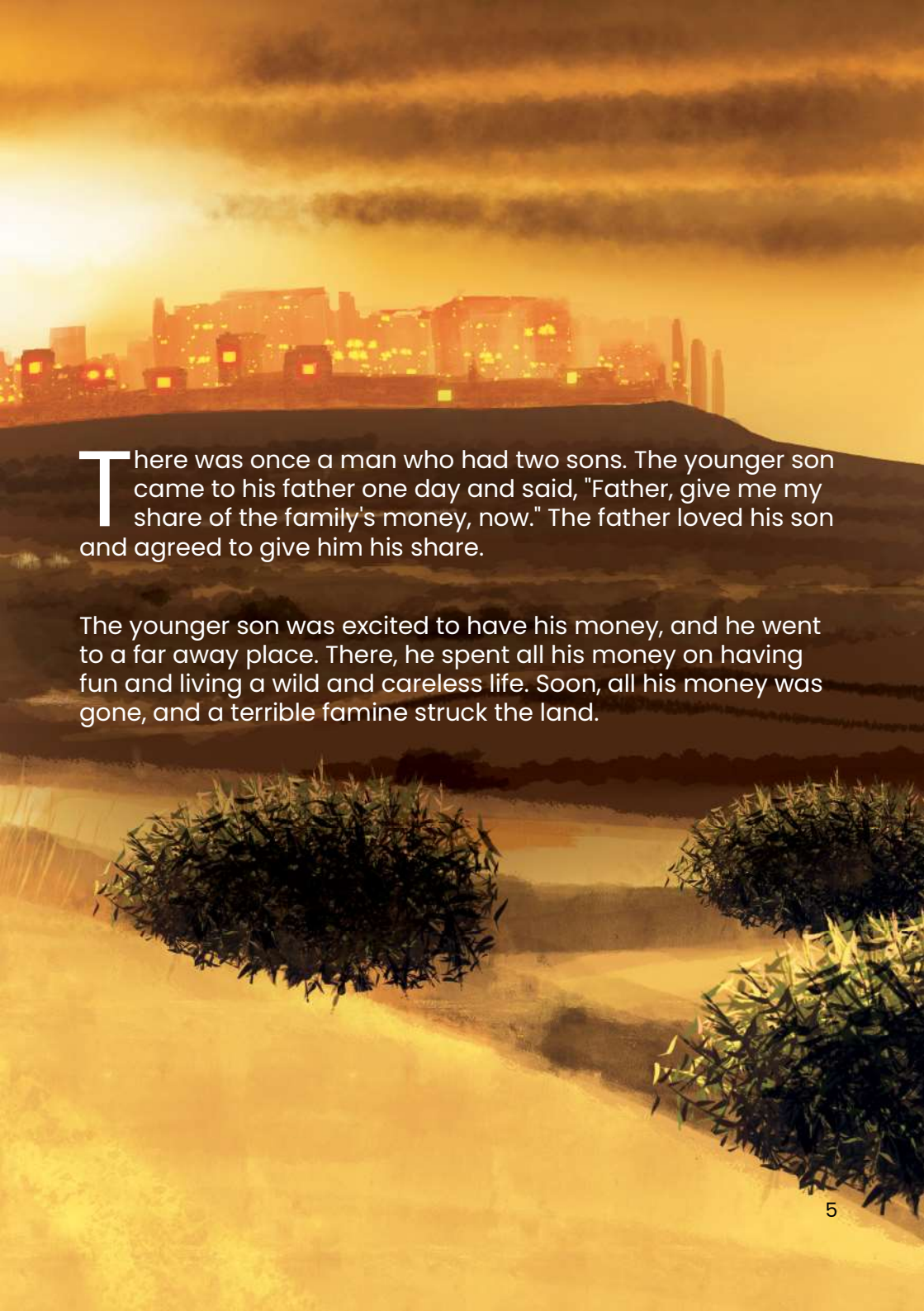
**NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE STORY**

**MATTHEW 18 and LUKE 15**

# **THE SON**

**Who Came Home**





**T**here was once a man who had two sons. The younger son came to his father one day and said, "Father, give me my share of the family's money, now." The father loved his son and agreed to give him his share.

The younger son was excited to have his money, and he went to a far away place. There, he spent all his money on having fun and living a wild and careless life. Soon, all his money was gone, and a terrible famine struck the land.





The young man had nothing left, so he took a job taking care of pigs. He was so hungry that he even wanted to eat the food the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

One day, the younger son realised he had made a big mistake by leaving his father's house and wasting all his money. He thought, "Even my father's servants have enough food to eat, and here I am starving. I will go back to my father and tell him that I have sinned against heaven and against him. I am no longer worthy to be called his son. Maybe he will let me work as one of his servants."

So, he set off on the long journey back to his father's house. While he was still far away, his father saw him coming.

His heart was filled with compassion and love, and he ran to his son, hugged him tightly, and kissed him.

The son was surprised and said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."



But his father was overjoyed. He called for his servants to bring the best robe, a ring, and sandals for his son. He also ordered a big celebration, saying, "For this son of mine was dead and he is alive again; he was lost and now he is found." So they began to celebrate.



But the older son, who had stayed with his father and worked hard, heard about the celebration. He became angry and refused to join the celebration. He told his father, "These many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed you, but you never gave me a young goat, so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has spent your money living carelessly, you killed the fattened calf for him!"

But his father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was right to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."







## **Prayer**

Thank You Father that even when we make mistakes and are truly sorry for them, You will always forgive us and take us back into Your heart.

## **Questions**

1. Do you think it is proper to ask your father to give you wealth while you are still young? Why do you say that?
2. What did the young son do with his father's money?
3. What would you do if you were left with nothing and were hungry?
4. What did the younger son say when he returned to his father?
5. What did the older son say?
6. Do you agree with the father's response to the older son? Why or why not?



## Phehli and a Chameleon

**M**akgaledisha was a very hardworking man. He and his wife were tree planters. They had large fruit trees and colourful flowers. Brides and grooms loved to come and have their pictures taken on Makgaledisha's farm, and they paid Makgaledisha well to make use of his farm.

Phehli, their son, didn't think it was important to help with the family business. He saw it as a waste of time, planting and watering dumb trees and flowers.

One day Phehli went for a walk in the field, and saw a chameleon dressed in colourful clothes. Then he had an idea. His father was rich, so he asked him for money to buy clothes like the chameleon. Phehli's father gave him even more than he asked for, so that he would not ask for money again.



Phehli's friends began to call him a Tycoon because he spent his money on lots of clothes, fancy things, and he even decided to buy a car. Phehli said to himself, "I want a car that has the colours of a chameleon, and I can see it. I choose to be colourful like the chameleon, but I will drive so fast that I will leave the chameleon behind and I will not return home."

On the road one day, Phehli smashed into someone's house with his car. He ran out of money, so he returned home to his father and apologised for everything he had done. His father was grateful that Phehli was not hurt, and that Phehli was sorry for what he had done. Phehli knew his parents had made money by working hard, so he got a job and his father also helped him pay for the damage he had done with the car.





## **Prayer**

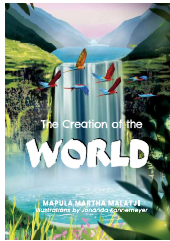
Dear Lord, please help us to honor our parents, to be grateful for what we have, and not to be greedy for more.

## **Questions**

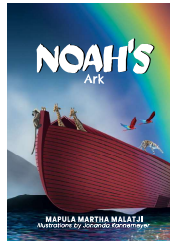
1. Was Phehli lazy?
2. Why did Phehli want money from his father?
3. Do you like to take care of trees and flowers?
4. How do you differ from a chameleon?
5. Do you think Phehli's father was right to help him when he came home?



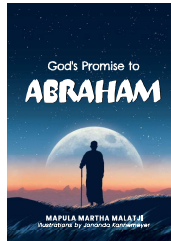
*The Son Who Came Home* is one of 20 books featuring 10 Old Testament (OT) and 10 New Testament (NT) stories, each with a practical reflection story based on the Bible story.



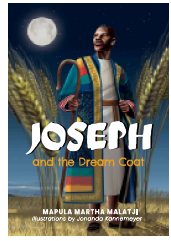
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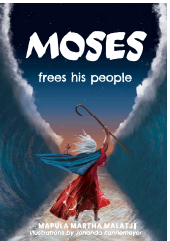
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OT Book\_3



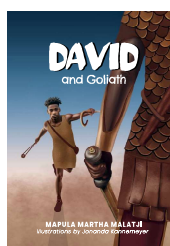
OT Book\_4



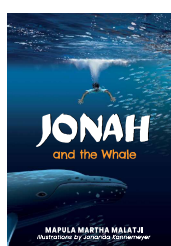
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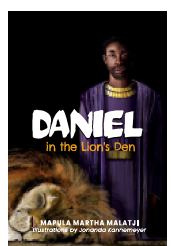
OT Book\_6



OT Book\_7



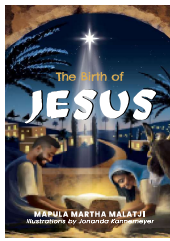
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OT Book\_9



OT Book\_10



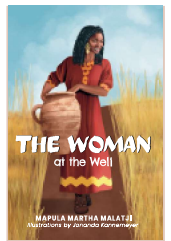
NT Book\_1



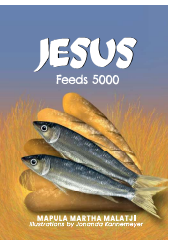
NT Book\_2



NT Book\_3



NT Book\_4



NT Book\_5



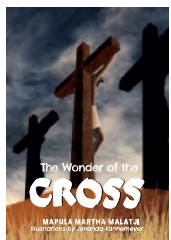
NT Book\_6



NT Book\_7



NT Book\_8



NT Book\_9



NT Book\_10

## **The Son Who Came Home**

In this story Jesus teaches us that God loves us. He wants us to come back to Him even when we have done somethings wrong. God is forgiving when we humble ourselves.

## **Phehli and a Chameleon**

This story is about loving and hard-working parents, who had a son who was lazy. After seeing the colourful chameleon, Phehli wanted money from his father so he could be like the chameleon, but in the end, Phehli realised that hard work is a good thing after all.



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English