

## Assembly 5

### How should I feel?

*Play and sing "Come home my son"*

*Recap the story so far*

*Continue the story*

The father was looking down the road, as he often had since his son had left. He saw a figure approaching in the distance. His excitement grew as the figure got closer and closer and as soon as he was sure, he ran down the road to meet his son, throwing his arms around him when he got to him. The son explained what had happened and that he just wanted a job as a servant, but the father was so delighted that he told his servants to prepare a great feast, so that they could celebrate with a party.

The older son was working in the fields when he heard the sound of the celebrations coming from the house. He walked towards the house to find out what was going on. He met a servant outside the house and when he heard what was happening he became very angry and refused to go into the house.

When his father was told, he went outside to see what was the matter.

"I've been slaving away on this farm for years and you've never put on such a feast for me," complained the older brother, "and yet when my lazy brother comes home because he's run out of money, you have an enormous celebration."

*Play the Song, "How should I feel?"*

*Questions for discussion*

It's easy to understand how the older brother feels. How do you think his father will reply to his complaint? (*Some possibilities - agree and apologise; politely disagree; get angry and tell him off*)

What the older brother was really saying was "IT'S NOT FAIR!"

Who here has ever said that?

If you envy someone, it means that you would like what they have. Envy is sometimes called a green eyed monster and when people envy others they turn into green eyed monsters. If you think about the situation in the story, almost everyone was enjoying themselves. But the older brother was outside the house, definitely not enjoying himself. Everyone wanted him to be in the house, enjoying the food, the dancing and the company, but he kept himself outside!

*Prayer*

Help us Lord, not to complain because of what other people have. Help us instead to share in their enjoyment.

*Reflection*

If we complain that things aren't fair, then we often end up even worse off than we were to start with. It's better to make the most of all situations.

*Learn the song*