Preparation: Create a prayerful atmosphere. Prepare a table at the front of your space. Tablecloth should be purple for Lent. Include a Bible or Book of the Gospels, pillar candle. No flowers during Lent. You could add a picture of the Prodigal Son.

Opening Prayer:

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Today we are going to hear a story about a father who had two sons. It is a story of forgiveness and love. We ask God’s help to always have open hearts to forgive others, especially when it is difficult.

Holy Scripture:

The Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32

Then Jesus said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’ ” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, “Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property; you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.” ’ The Gospel of the Lord.
Litany: Teach Us to Forgive*

Teach us O Lord to always forgive others. We know that forgiveness can be hard to give especially if we are hurting, but we also know that it is the right thing to do. For you always love us and forgive us all our sins. Forgiveness brings us closer to you.

When people call us names,
All: Teach us to forgive them.

When friends don’t play with us,
All: Teach us to forgive them.

When someone talks behind our backs,
All: Teach us to forgive them.

When others are not truthful,
All: Teach us to forgive them.

When classmates take our things without asking permission,
All: Teach us to forgive them.

When people are mean to us,
All: Teach us to forgive them.

For all who hurt us,
All: Teach us to forgive them.

May we learn to always offer forgiveness.
May we learn to always love others.
We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ.
All: Amen

Our Father: Invite the school community to pray together the words that Jesus taught us.

Sign of Peace: As witnesses of our faith turn to one another and offer the sign of peace to those around you.

Closing Prayer:
Let us all go in peace remembering to forgive one another as God forgives us.

*Adapted from Words for the Journey for Kids
Lisa Freemantle & Les Miller