



## The Parable of the Prodigal Son

### WEEK 6 DISCUSSION GUIDE

## OVERVIEW

In the sixth and final message in the series entitled, *Parables: Life Lessons From Jesus*, we will study the *Parable of the Prodigal Son*.

## DISCUSSION

Read the *Parable of the Prodigal Son* in **Luke 15:11-32**. This parable paints a picture of the amazing love of God. In it, we see a child who grows entitled and turns away from the grace and love of his father. This entitlement leads to pride—and ends up taking him on a messy, difficult journey.

- Share a time when you were on a messy, difficult journey. How did God move in your life and change your heart?

### What Jesus Teaches Us About Prodigals:

1. **Entitlement and pride blind us** of our need for God—and leave us empty.

**Luke 15:11-12:** *“There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.”* We can see here that the younger son had a sense of entitlement and was blind to the amazing love of his father. The father ends up giving the son his inheritance—even though the father was under no obligation to give it to him. As we read on, we learn that the younger son landed in a messy, unclean place—feeding hogs, yet starving.

We are designed to find our ultimate fulfillment in a relationship with God. Regardless of where we’re at in life, God’s love, joy, and peace are still waiting for us.

- What are some ways to grow in humility?
- Why is God the only One that can fulfill us?

2. **A new day begins when we come to our senses.**

**Luke 15:17-19:** *“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’”*

Here, we see the son's entitlement fade away as he goes from "give me my inheritance" to "make me one of your servants". When he hit rock bottom, he came to his senses and repented to his father. When we find ourselves empty, we can have hope that there's a way out—but we must first have a heart of repentance. According to **Proverbs 14:12**, living life on our own terms is a path to pain and misery. We must turn away from sin and living by our own rules—and turn to God to live a life of freedom.

- What is the difference between Jesus being your Savior and Jesus being your Lord?
- What are the challenges and benefits of making Jesus the Lord of your life?

### 3. God welcomes us back with open arms.

**Luke 15:20-24:** "So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." The father saw the son while he was a long way off. He was looking, longing for his son's return. Jesus is saying that no matter where we're at or what we've done, He is waiting for us to return to Him and receive His love.

In **verses 25-32**, we learn how the older brother did "all the right things" but became jealous of the celebration for his younger brother. The same entitlement and pride that was in the younger brother was also in the older brother. The older brother never understood the depths of love the father had for him. Like the older brother—sometimes, we may become so religious in our performance that we miss out on our relationship with our Father.

- Have you ever tried to perform for God instead of growing in a relationship with Him?
- What are some ways we can remember God's true love for us?

## LIFE CHALLENGE

This week, be aware of moments where you feel prideful, entitled, or performance driven. Ask God to reveal the areas that you struggle to be humble and receive His love in. Ask Him to help change your mindset in these areas so you can grow closer to Him.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER