

MEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 2: The Prodigal Son

THE ONE SERIES OVERVIEW

Jesus came to seek and save lost people. When the lost are found, all of heaven rejoices over their salvation..

CONTEXT

In Luke 15:11-24, Jesus tells the story of a young man who squanders his inheritance on reckless living but is later welcomed back with open arms by his forgiving father. This parable illustrates God's boundless grace and the joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.

LUKE 15 VIDEO OVERVIEW

• Chapter 15

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-24

Watch Scripture Video

11 And Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. 14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

Luke 15 continued: 17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." '20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him. 'Father. I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

THE BIG IDEA

Life apart from the Father has devastating consequences. The right response to sin is to run to the Father, not from Him.

ICEBREAKER: Share a brief story (funny or serious) about a time when you threatened to run away or actually did when you were growing up. What was your parents' response to your threat and/or actions?



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STARTER QUESTION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 15:11-24 together or watch the <u>scripture video</u> as a group.

What does Luke 15:11-24 teach us about who God is and His character?

Read verses 18-19. How do you think the son's repentive posture impacted the father's grace towards him? Is God's grace impacted by our words, actions or attitude towards Him?

How does this parable challenge your understanding of repentance and forgiveness?

Discuss the concept of "common grace" as explained in the sermon. How does this shape our understanding of God's provision for all people?

How did the father's response to the younger son's demand defy cultural expectations, and what might this teach us about God's love?

In what ways does the restoration of the younger son to sonship provide a picture of how salvation works?

Who is your ONE? Share any fears or obstacles that you have.

Deeper Community: Reflect on the phrase "sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay." How have you seen this play out in real life and how did God respond to your repentance?

PRAYER

*For a deeper and more responsive prayer time, separate into smaller (3-6 people) men's groups and women's groups or couples.

Share praises, answered prayers and prayer requests.

Pray for your ONE by name!

Begin with prayer
Listen to their story
Eat with them
Serve them
Share your story and the story of Jesus

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your boundless grace that welcomes us back no matter how far we've strayed. God, show us our sin and help us to turn towards You with repentant hearts, knowing that Your love and forgiveness await us with open arms. We pray in the name above all names, Jesus. Amen.