

MEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

WK 4: The Loving Father

THE ONE SERIES OVERVIEW

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

LUKE 15 VIDEO OVERVIEW

• Chapter 15

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:11-32

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. 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.'

Luke 15 continued:

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. 25 "Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."

THE BIG IDEA

God is a loving father who desires both the religious and irreligious to repent and follow Jesus.

ICEBREAKER: What's the largest "feast" you have ever been a part of?



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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

Watch the scripture video as a group.

What does the father in Luke 15:11-32 teach us about who God is and His character?

What would your verbal and physical response have been to both sons if they were your kids? How would your responses have been different before we studied this story?

Discuss the importance of the symbols used in verses 22-23. (**Robe**- for honored guest, **Ring**- family signet & sign of authority, **Sandals**- sons wore shoes not servants, **Fatten Calf**- reserved for special occasion) How do they help Jesus make his point?

How does this parable shape our understanding of God's unending love and grace for all His children?

How do you see this parable and God differently after studying this parable for the last few weeks?

Pastor James talked about the significance of feasts in the Bible. Why would he refer to this party as the "Feast of Forgiveness"?

Deeper Community: During The ONE Series, how has your view of God changed and what did you learn about yourself through the series?

PARTY MONTHLY! Schedule a "feast" for your group. Make sure to show gratitude to God and for each other. Invite people to your feast and let them see you celebrate and thank God as a community.

PRAYER

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

Pray for your ONE by name! Pray for needs in your group.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your boundless grace and love that welcomes us back with open arms, no matter what. Forgive us God for being judgemental and unforgiving toward others and help us to extend grace and forgiveness to others as you have done for us. Thank you Jesus, Amen

Opportunities to GROW at Crosspoint City

- 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Join us for Closer, 1/30-2/2.
- Crosspoint Institute begins 1/27
 https://www.crosspointcity.com/institute/
- Women's Discipleship
 <u>Crosspointcity.com/women</u>
- Men's Discipleship
 <u>Crosspointcity.com/men</u>