



The Storyteller: The Prodigal Son

LUKE 15:11-31 | NOVEMBER 21 & 22, 2015

We come this week to what is perhaps the most famous of all the parables Jesus told – the story of the Prodigal Son. This story is the third of the lost parables in Luke 15 and serves as the climax of the chapter. It reveals the heart of repentance, the bitterness of heartless obedience and of course, the incredible watching, forgiving and celebrating love of a gracious father.

WITH THE GROUP



LEARNING | BEGINNING TO CONNECT WITH THE TOPIC

What was the worst thing you remember being in trouble for during your childhood/adolescence? If you were caught, how did those in authority react to what you did?



LEARNING | GETTING CLEAR ON WHAT WAS TAUGHT

In what ways do all three of the lost parables keep a similar structure and make the same points? What are the added angles that were incorporated in the Prodigal Son story?

What do each of the three main characters represent (i.e. what lesson is learned from each of them)? As you read the story slowly, to which character do you most readily relate?



LOVING | GROWING OUR HEART FOR A LOVING GOD

What part of the sermon or the Scripture most surprised you, challenged you or opened your eyes to new insights?

What scriptural promises about God's love reinforce the depiction of God we see in Luke 15? This depiction is God as the watchful, forgiving and running father full of love?



LIVING | STARTING TO LIVE LIKE JESUS DAILY

What is the difference between obedient action and an obedient heart? What implications would this have in your living? What are the dangers to getting this wrong?

There are two positive behaviors that are pointed to in the parable: What would it look like to repent like the son? What would it look like to love like the father? Which is more important in your life this month – to repent of something or to show forgiving love towards somebody? Plan a step you will take towards one of these and invite your group to be praying for you to take that step.

DIGGING DEEPER

Mike talked in the sermon about two issues: Rebellion and Religion. He shared that rebellion is "unrighteousness" and religion is "self-righteousness". Why is it hard to stop being the Prodigal Son without turning into the Older Brother? How would you know if you are becoming an "older brother"?

GRADUATE LEVEL

What is the "good life"? Who is a "good person"? What does a flourishing person do, think and believe?