

PRODIGAL



A PARABLE ABOUT EXTRAVAGANCE

Overview:

God wants a relationship with us, and he'll stop at nothing to get it. The word "prodigal" means extravagant, reckless, almost wasteful.

Lessons:

1. Three Lessons from the Prodigal Son
2. Three Lessons from the Prodigal Father
3. Five Marks of a Rule-Keeper Far From God
4. How to Love the Prodigal in Your Life



THE PRODIGAL SON

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TALKING POINTS

There's good news for followers of Jesus, even when you're at war with the culture.

- The farther you _____, the farther away you'll be. Luke 15:13-16
- It's not too late to turn _____ - if you're willing to repent. Luke 15:17-19
- You can never _____ - _____ God's forgiveness. Luke 15:20-21

DISCUSSION

1. Are you more of a rule-breaker or a rule-keeper? Provide some examples to prove your answer!
2. Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21 and Luke 15:11-12. There were clear Jewish customs regarding how a father's inheritance was passed down. How does this passage set the tone for what Jesus was about to teach?
3. Read Luke 15:13-16. What's the significance of saying he left for a distant land? Have you ever found yourself in unfamiliar territory, far from God? Explain.
4. Read Luke 15:17-19. What does it mean to "come to our senses" when we've rebelled against God? How would you describe the son's attitude from this passage?
5. Read 2 Corinthians 7:10. Define repentance in your own words. Based on this story, how would Jesus describe a repentant heart?
6. Read Luke 15:20-21. Share how God has been wastefully extravagant in your life? Why is God the main character in the parable?

THE PRODIGAL FATHER

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TALKING POINTS

God wants a relationship with us, and he'll stop at nothing to get it. He doesn't just tolerate sinners, he seeks them out and welcomes them home.

- The _____ chases down those who are lost. Luke 15:3-4,8,20
- The Father responds with _____ when a sinner repents. Luke 15:5-6,9-10
- The Father is recklessly extravagant toward his _____. Luke 15:22-24; Psalm 103:8-13

DISCUSSION

1. *What did your life look like before you met Jesus? Share your defining moment when you gave your life to Jesus.*
2. *Read Luke 15:1-9. Describe the picture Jesus paints in these two parables. How did God come after you?*
3. *Read Luke 15:20. What was reckless about the father's response? What do you think the rule-breakers in the crowd thought about the father's reaction? How about the rule-keepers?*
4. *Read Luke 15:10,22-24. How did you grow up viewing God? What is the picture of the father from these verses? Why is that response reckless and extravagant?*
5. *Read Psalm 103:8-13. Identify everything that is said about God in this passage. How will you pursue him moving forward?*

THE RULE KEEPER

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TALKING POINTS

Being a rule-keeper doesn't always mean you're far from God, but if you are, Jesus describes how you can mend your relationship with God.

- You work for _____, not for the benefit of others. Luke 15:25-27
- You get _____ at God for his extravagance to others. Luke 15:28
- You're _____ to God's extravagance toward you. Luke 15:28
- You look at _____ transactionally. Luke 15:28-30
- You stay on the _____. Luke 15:31-32

DISCUSSION

1. *If you identify as a rule-keeper, describe why following the rules matter. How has your adherence to the rules helped and hindered your life?*
2. *Read Luke 15:25-27. Put yourself in the shoes of the older son. What would you be thinking at this moment? How have you felt shortchanged by your dutifulness while others seem careless?*
3. *Read Luke 15:28-30. Describe the son's attitude in these verses towards himself and the Father. How have you been "transactional" in your approach to God?*
4. *Share ways God has been extravagant toward you and your family?*
5. *Why do you think Jesus emphasized the difference between relating to the father as a worker versus a son?*
6. *Read Luke 15:31-32. How did the father show extravagant grace to the older son? What insights have you gained from the rule-keeper in this story?*

LOVING THE PRODIGAL IN YOUR LIFE

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TALKING POINTS

It might be time to change your approach with the prodigal in your life.

- Tip #1: Be honest about your _____ brokenness. Luke 6:41-42
- Tip #2: Be the one to _____ the offense. Romans 15:1-2
- Tip #3: In your extravagance, don't _____ sin. Galatians 6:1
- Tip #4: Stop trying to _____ every outcome. Matthew 6:34
- Tip #5: _____ that God will do whatever it takes. John 16:7-8

DISCUSSION

1. *Share about the prodigal in your life. How have you tried to reach them in the past? What is the current state of your relationship?*
2. *Read Luke 6:41-42. What does Jesus mean in these verses? How does acknowledging your own brokenness change your approach to the prodigal?*
3. *Read Romans 15:1-2. How have you absorbed the offense in the past? What does it look like to be gracious but still have boundaries?*
4. *Read Galatians 6:1. Share some good advice you've received from trusted people regarding your prodigal.*
5. *Read Matthew 6:34. How have you tried to control the choices of your prodigal in the past and what was the outcome? What does it look like practically to release your worry?*
6. *Read John 16:7-8. Have you seen God get a hold of a prodigal's heart in the past? Share. According to these verses, who is the only one who can change a heart?*

NOTES



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