

Every time Jesus encounters the Pharisees he speaks to them in parables.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son—Luke 15:11-31

We can easily see ourselves as a son of the father, but our goal is to be *like* the Father.

We need to move towards Forgiving others.

We need to move towards Receiving others.

We need to move towards Celebrating with others.

NEXT STEPS

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation. Join with a life group and continue to grow by using these study questions this week.

MY STORY

Read through the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-31). Which one of these sons do you relate with the most and why?

Where in your life have you seen the Father (God) receive you back into his home?

Why is it easier for us to remain “sons” than it is to act like the “Father”?

DIGGING DEEPER

In this story, the Father forgives both of his children, one for walking away from him, and the other for refusing to celebrate.

Why did Jesus tell this parable to his followers and the Pharisees?

Henri Nouwen, author of Return of the Prodigal Son, wrote "...the Father's heart goes out to both of his sons; he loves them both; he hopes to see them together as brothers around the same table; he wants them to experience that, different as they are, they belong to the same household and are children of the same father."

Who are the people in our life that we forget are our brothers? Who do we need to invite to join us at the table?

Read Matthew 6:14-15. The Father not only extends forgiveness to his sons in the story of the Prodigal, but encourages one of them to forgive his brother's action and celebrate his brother's return.

Why is forgiveness hard for us? Who has hurt you that you refuse to forgive? Why is it important we forgive those who hurt us?

Not only does the Father extend forgiveness but welcomes both of his children back into his home.

When people are sincerely seeking forgiveness towards you, then should we allow them into our lives? What barriers have we put up between us and those that have hurt us? What are some ways we know people have really changed?

When the Father sees his son return, he calls for a celebration. When his other son sees the celebration he is upset. The Father sees this and reminds him that his brother was dead, but is now alive, isn't that a reason to celebrate?

Every life is valuable in the eyes of God. How often do we celebrate that we are with our Father? How often are we thankful towards God and others for being in our lives?

What are some ways we can celebrate what God has done for us personally and relationally?

PRAYER REQUESTS