

Luke 15:11-32

**Names mean something.**

Genesis 1; 17:1-21; Exodus 3:13-15; Matthew 16:13-20

**The “Prodigal” Story**

**The Myth**

**In our impatience we often settle for slop.**

Luke 15:12-16; Genesis 25: 29-34

**Sometimes we focus so much on what we don’t have that we forget the blessings that we do have.**

Luke 15:25-32; Numbers 11

**We are not a people who are waiting hopelessly neither are we a people who should be hopelessly waiting.**

**The Truth**

**As Christians we have taken on a new identity (our names have been changed) and therefore have been promised an inheritance.**

Galatians 4:4-7; Romans 5:17-21; Ephesians 1:13-14

**In our faults, our father wastefully lavishes his love on us.**

Luke 15:20-24; Romans 8:38-39

**While we have hope for the completion of our eternal inheritance, we can enjoy that inheritance today.**

Luke 15:31 Romans 6:13-22

**NEXT STEPS**

Take some time to focus on the questions below. Grab a friend and turn these questions into a discussion.

**My Story**

We learned this week that prodigal doesn’t actually mean “lost” but instead means “wasteful.” In what ways can you relate to the “prodigal-ness” of each character in the “Prodigal Parable?”

The Younger Son

The Older Son

The Father

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. We talked about how sometimes in our impatience we settle for slop. Read the story of Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25:29-34. How is Esau similar to the younger prodigal son in the prodigal parable?

Like both Esau and the younger son we often find ourselves in situations where we have compromised our inheritance for short-term gratification. Are there moments in your life when you too have compromised the promise of your inheritance as a child of God?

2. We learned this week that like the older prodigal son, while we as Christians bare the father's name and are "living under his household" we sometimes are wasteful with the inheritance that we have been given. Similarly as recorded in Exodus and in Numbers, the Israelites who had been delivered from the tyranny of Egypt through a great display of God's power and might, forget the blessings and provision of God and begin to focus on the things that they don't have. They too misplace, the inheritance and the promise that they had been given.

What are areas in your life where you feel like you have missed the blessing of God's inheritance and have instead focused on the things that you don't have?

Think about the father's statement in the story to his older son, "Don't you know that all I have is yours." What are the implications of this statement for your own life and in regards to your reflections above?

3. Thankfully, the character of the prodigal father in this story mirrors the excessive love that the father has for us. Read both Romans 8:38-39 and Matthew 18:10-14. Reflect on how God's prodigal love for us and his refusal to call us anything other than his children changes the way we as Christians need to live "prodigally?"