

KEY SCRIPTURE:

There is no one righteous, not even one...All have turned away...there is no one who does good, not even one. Romans 3:10-12

...“I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his master...but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.” Isaiah 1:2-3 NLT

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country... Luke 15:11-13

“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. Luke 15:13-16

...we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you... And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way Colossians 1:9-10

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Galatians 6:9

...But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him... Luke 15:20

...his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. Luke 15:20

But the LORD still waits for you to come to him so he can show you his love and compassion. For the LORD is a faithful God...Isaiah 30:18 NLT

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Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Was there one person who was very patient and persistent with you as you were being led to Jesus? Share a little bit about that person and how their patience and persistence were important in your faith walk.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 15:11-32. Make as many observations about the son, the father, and the brother as you can.
- Build some cultural context around the passage to better understand it. Why, culturally speaking was the son in one of the worst situations possible? What are some clues in Jesus’ story that show how bad his situation had become?
- Building more context, everything the father did in this story is counter-cultural behavior for a man of the father’s position in life. What are some things he did that would have been out of place culturally?
- How does this story give a glimpse of the Gospel and God’s love toward us?

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- What part of this message was most convicting and why? What part of this message was most encouraging and why?
- In this season of life, do you most relate to the father, the son, or the brother? Why?
- Is there a “prodigal” in your life right now that you’re having a difficult time dealing with? How is your approach toward reaching that person going to change, improve, or stay the same because of this message and the story of the prodigal son?
- Was there ever a season of life where you “went prodigal?” What brought you out of it?

Start Praying. Pray this prayer in your own words with your group.

Father in Heaven, thank you for coming to us through Jesus, you Son! What an amazing, undeserved gift. If we used every moment from now until eternity, there are not enough moments nor words to express our gratitude. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for loving us in our prodigal state and thank you for leading us to You! Thank you for being our Father in Heaven! We praise you and ask that you help us and allow us to lead every person we know to repent before you and place their faith in You. We ask this in the name of Jesus, amen!

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Go to the prayer in Colossians 1:9-10 and pray that over yourself, your church family, and your loved ones. Pray this prayer every day this week.