



FATHER'S DAY
MESSAGE



THE



Redemptive



FATHER

LUKE 15:11-32

STUDY GUIDE

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WELCOME:

Fixing
Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Let each GG member share a memorable experience with their dad or a father figure wherein they felt like they truly belonged. Alternatively, if the GG member is already a father figure to someone, they may instead share a time they demonstrated forgiveness and acceptance even though it was difficult.

WORSHIP:

Adoring
Our God

Suggested songs:

- [This Is My Father's World](#)
- [Run to The Father](#)
- [He Knows My Name](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will learn more about their Heavenly Father's restorative and redemptive love so that they may be encouraged to always return to Him when they make mistakes.
2. GG members will celebrate the role of a father or father figures in the lives of believers, particularly in their own, as God's way of allowing His love to be demonstrated and felt here on earth.

INTRODUCTION

A familiar story to most, the parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32 is beloved for its timeless message. It is important to recall that in the greater context of the passage, Jesus Christ, through several parables, is teaching about God's acceptance of the sinner as a response to the distaste of the Pharisees and scribes. Naturally, the text today illustrates the Father's unfathomable grace.

The father released the son who was rebellious (vv. 11-16)

After telling the parable of the lost sheep and the parable of the lost coin, Jesus Christ builds on His message by telling a third parable in succession. He began this parable of the prodigal son by introducing the characters, situating the narrative, and presenting the conflict in the story.

1. Who are the characters in this parable? Based on their actions, how would you describe each of them?
2. What do you think was implied by the son's request for his share of the property? According to the passage, how did the son manage the share he was given?
3. How did the son initially respond when he realized that he was in need? How does the passage illustrate his desperation?
4. What are some of the possible reasons why the father released his son and why the son squandered his share? It may help to read passages such as Romans 1:28 and 2 Timothy 3:1-5 with the group.

Application

Because our Heavenly Father is perfectly loving, He also gives people the freedom to obey Him or disobey Him. Though He doesn't desire any one of us to sin, He allows people to live a sinful lifestyle should that be their heart's desire. Take a moment now to reflect on what your heart is currently desiring. If there is a sinful lifestyle you are struggling to turn from, you may share it now with the group so that they can encourage you to walk no further in it.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

The father restored the son who was repentant (vv. 17-24)

Jesus did not end the story with the tragedy of the son who was rebellious. Incredibly, when the son decided to return home, he was met by his father. Moreover, his father responded by throwing a celebration for his son who had returned.

1. What were some of the realizations the son had expressed in the passage? What do these realizations say about how his heart has changed? What was the son willing to become upon his return home?
2. How does the text describe the father's attitude in receiving his son? Which of the father's actions in verses 22-23 strikes you greatly?
3. What were the father's instructions for his servants in preparing the celebration? What could the items to be given to the son say about his identity? How do these things illustrate the joy in the father's heart, especially in light of how he described his son in verse 24 (cf. Luke 15:5-6, 9)?

Application

We may, at times, be surprised or even caught in disbelief over the kind of grace our Heavenly Father repeatedly shows us. Can you recall the most recent act of grace the Lord showed you? Share it with the group so that together, you may rejoice in God. Furthermore, is there someone the Lord is clearly telling you to be gracious towards? When the Lord impresses it upon your heart this coming week, choose to deal graciously with this person.

The father reassured the son who was resentful (vv. 25-32)

At the beginning of the parable, it was mentioned that the father had an older son who, unlike his brother, remained at home. Jesus ended the parable by illustrating the older son's response to his father's celebration and restoration of his younger brother.

1. How did the older son come to learn about the celebration? Based on the passage, how did he respond to the news?
2. According to the text, what were some of the older son's reasons for the way he reacted to the celebration? Do you think his reaction was justified? Discuss your thoughts as a group.
3. What did the father say in response to his son's arguments? What did the way the father responded reveal about his character?

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Application

More often than not, we who have long remained in a spiritual community are tempted to respond like the older brother in the parable. Instead of rejoicing when God shows grace, we allow comparison to breed resentment. Similar to the older son, have you been drawing security from your acts of obedience rather than your relationship with the Father? Instead of fixating on religious demonstrations, spend time this week in prayer and in reading the Word to be intentional in nurturing your relationship with the Father.

PRAYER ITEM

Heavenly Father, I am amazed whenever I recall that You are my Father. You are the One who sent Your Son so that I can now call You my Father. I pray that I will choose to run to You instead of wallowing in my wickedness. I pray that You may open up my heart to receive Your grace and mercy. May Your love transform me so that others may come to know You as their Heavenly Father too. This I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen. ■



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Know Christ and Make Him Known

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