

The Father of Two Lost Sons
Personal Study Guide
October 13, 2019
Luke 15:11-32

Main Idea: God rejoices whenever a sinner returns to Him in repentance.

What books or movies about someone who is lost being found do you like most?

Why do these stories resonate with us?

1. Like the Younger Son, We've Rebelled Against Our Father and Squandered His Good Gifts ([Luke 15:11-19](#)).

- *Jesus was painting a picture of two types of lost people. What type of people do the two sons represent?*
 - Younger Son

 - Older Son

- *What are some common examples today of ways we might squander the good gifts of God?*

- *In what ways does the squandering of God's gifts lead to slavery instead of freedom?*

2. Like the Father, God Celebrates When a Sinner Returns to Him ([Luke 15:20-24](#)).

- *Make a list of several characteristics communicated by the father's actions in this parable.*

- How are these characteristics true of God? How can they be true of us?

- In what ways does the father's treatment of his son go above and beyond what anyone expected?

3. Like the Older Son, Some Resent God's Grace and Cling to Religious Observance ([Luke 15:25-32](#)).

- *How can our "good deeds" be a way of walling ourselves off from a relationship with God?*
- *Are you more likely to see your Christian life as the drudgery of a servant or a feast for a son? Why?*
- *What are some ways that a closed-off heart to God will lead to a closed-off heart to sinners who find forgiveness?*

Christ Connection: The Pharisees and scribes criticized Jesus for His practice of welcoming and dining with sinners. The stories He told in response to their criticism focused on God's joy over sinners coming to repentance. The God who seeks and saves the lost is Jesus, the Savior whose search-and-rescue mission is accomplished at great personal cost to Himself.

His Mission, Your Mission

Missional Application: God calls us not to resent His grace toward others but to celebrate the Father's goodness in welcoming any repentant sinner home.

1. How does the parable of the prodigal son encourage you to come to the Father for forgiveness when you have fallen into sin?
2. How can we as a group/church celebrate with the Father when a sinner repents and turns to Jesus in faith?
3. What steps can we take to eliminate needless barriers that would keep sinners from "coming home" to the Father?