

SERMON NOTES

Date: February 23, 2020

Title: What Do You Do About a Prodigal in Your Life?

Text: Luke 15:11-32

Big Idea: God is gracious enough to use a prodigal's wanderings to make you like Him.

APPLICATION GUIDE

REVIEW THE SERMON

Jesus told the story of the prodigal son to demonstrate His passionate love for sinners and the joy He has over even one who repents. What did you learn about God's love, and what possible reasons could we have for not sharing His happiness?

Discuss the process the prodigal son went through that ultimately broke him down into repentance. How does this process reveal God's mercy?

The Father ran with compassion to cover his son's shame and restored him to full sonship without hesitation. What attributes of God are on display in this exchange of forgiveness? List them, and as a group, stop now to thank God for being this is your life.

APPLY THE TRUTH

Do you have a prodigal tendency in your own heart? How does this story speak to the awfulness of sin and the trust you can have in the Father's compassion, that you can return to Him in a moment?

When the prodigal was hungry, he fought with pigs; when he was starving, he went home to his Father. What can you do to shorten the time between your sin and repentance? Tell the group how you intend to be a quicker repentor.

Do you have someone in your life who has broken your heart by going prodigal? Which phase of the story are they in, and how does the Father's affectionate grace instruct you to respond to them today? Is there something God wants you to do in stepping towards them?

The prodigal's older brother did not have God's heart for the lost because he had a religion that didn't require a Savior. What are some ways that you can keep the gospel fresh to your own heart and avoid the tendency towards self-righteousness and self-congratulation?

COMMIT THIS WEEK

Make a prayer list of people in your group who are prodigal and pray for them by name specifically, now, and each week until God moves on their hearts to bring them home (commit to a regular time for updates).