



The Father Prodigal (Mar 25)

Series Summary: This three-week series focuses on the characters in the famous Parable of the Prodigal Son. It will examine each character's roles and show how the Gospel comforts those who feel too far gone but also challenges those who think an association with God is equal to truly knowing him.

Big Idea/Question: How does God respond to our worst mistakes?

Get Them Talking: What is the dumbest thing that you have ever done?

Luke 15:20-24 "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. **21** "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' **22** "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. **24** For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Do you think the rebellious son thought the father would respond this way? How do you think you think he thought his father would respond?

Do we make the same bad assumptions about how people we love will respond when we mess up? How about our assumptions about how God responds when we sin?

How did the father respond in this passage? What does that show us about God?

How should the father's response impact how we act when we have sinned against God?

Introspective Question: Each one of us has done some things that we are not proud of. The question is do we truly believe that God responds to us repenting of our worst mistakes the same way the father did in the parable?

Personal Reflection

Do you need to stop rebelling against God in any area of your life?

What's keeping you from returning to Him?

If you are ready to "go home" to God, what do you need to do?

Leader Note: Use this time to encourage students to confess their sin and to commit to following the Lord in very specific areas of their life, ie language, relationships, purity, actions, friendships, etc.