

# Family Vision

## The Week of June 20, 2021 The Prodigal Son Conversation Guide

### This Week's Take-Aways

- **I am in prayer:** (Philippians 4:6) I regularly pray to God to better know Him and His direction for my life.
- **About Humanity:** (John 3:16) I believe all people are fallen in sin, but loved by God who has taken the initiative to save humanity from its sinfulness.
- **About Salvation:** (Ephesians 2:1-10) Salvation is an act of God's grace, not of our works. God offers redemption of anyone who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior. They become new persons in Christ, have their sins forgiven by God, are set apart to live for God's purposes and anticipate eternity in heaven with God.



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## Intro Questions

- What's the most embarrassing thing you or your children have ever done?
- Have you ever known somebody (or been somebody) who got away with something really bad? (Keep it church appropriate!)



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## The Prodigal Son

Read Luke 15:11-32 (CSB)

*He also said, "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate I have coming to me.' So he distributed the assets to them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered together all he had and traveled to a distant country, where he squandered his estate in foolish living. After he had spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he had nothing.*

*"Then he went to work for one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. He longed to eat his fill from the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one would give him anything. When he came*



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*to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food, and here I am dying of hunger! I'll get up, go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight. I'm no longer worthy to be called your son.'*

*"But the father told his servants, 'Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then bring the fattened calf*



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*and slaughter it, and let's celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' So they began to celebrate.*

*"Now his older son was in the field; as he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he summoned one of the servants, questioning what these things meant. 'Your brother is here,' he told him, 'and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'*

*"Then he became angry and didn't want to go in. So his father came out and pleaded with him. But he replied to his father, 'Look, I have been slaving many years for you, and I have never disobeyed your orders, yet you never gave me a goat so that I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came,*



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*who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.'*

*"'Son,' he said to him, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"*

- Who does the father represent? Who does the younger son represent? The older son (look at the end of chapter 14)?
- Define prodigal in your own words. Now look it up in the dictionary. Are you surprised by the true definition?
- How would your father have reacted if you asked for your inheritance like the younger son?



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- How would you react if your child asked this of you?
- What do you think the younger son's motivation was for asking for his inheritance?
- How do we see the attitude of the younger son reflected in our own lives? In our culture?
- What makes him change his attitude? Does he come home with the right attitude?
- Think about the "younger sons" you know. Take a moment and pray for them now.



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## The Father

- The father freely gives the younger son his inheritance and let's him leave. He was worried about the son, but left him to his own devices. How is this reminiscent of our relationship with God?
- What does this tell us about God's attitude toward freewill?
- What does the father's attitude and actions during the son's return say about our relationship with God? (In Middle Eastern culture it was considered disgraceful for men to bare their legs and/or run.)
- How does freewill impact our relationship with God positively and negatively?



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## The Older Brother

- Why doesn't the father go out and search for the younger son? Who should have been out looking for him?
- What is the attitude of the older son as his younger brother leaves? When he returns?
- Who is guilty of unrepentant sin, the older or the younger son?

Read Matthew 20:1-16

*“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the workers on one denarius, he sent them into his vineyard for the day. When he went out about nine in the morning, he*



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*saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He said to them, 'You also go into my vineyard, and I'll give you whatever is right.' So off they went. About noon and about three, he went out again and did the same thing. Then about five he went and found others standing around and said to them, 'Why have you been standing here all day doing nothing?'*

*"Because no one hired us,' they said to him.*

*"You also go into my vineyard,' he told them. When evening came, the owner of the vineyard told his foreman, 'Call the workers and give them their pay, starting with the last and ending with the first.'*

*"When those who were hired*



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*about five came, they each received one denarius. So when the first ones came, they assumed they would get more, but they also received a denarius each. When they received it, they began to complain to the landowner: 'These last men put in one hour, and you made them equal to us who bore the burden of the day's work and the burning heat.'*

*"He replied to one of them, 'Friend, I'm doing you no wrong. Didn't you agree with me on a denarius? Take what's yours and go. I want to give this last man the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with what is mine? Are you jealous because I'm generous?'"*

*"So the last will be first, and the first last."*



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- Who is like the older son in this parable?
- Do you see this attitude in yourself?
- How can we guard against this bitterness shown by the early workers and the older son?
- Can we ever earn God's grace through our own works and actions?
- Is there comfort in how God treats the Prodigals and the late workers? (Remember the thief on the cross- Luke 23:39-43!)



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## Next Steps

- Who in the story of the Prodigal Son are you?
  - Younger son- learn how to start or renew your relationship with God (visit <https://icelebration.org/fresh-start> to learn more).
  - Older son- be mindful of the grace you've been given by God (Ephesians 2:8-10) It's not about you!
- Are you waiting for a prodigal to return to their faith? Check out these videos and studies on RightNow Media ([Click here to set up your free account](#)).
  - [Prodigal](#) by Christian Putnam (from the perspective of the prodigal)
  - [Runaway](#) by Jim Putnam (from the father's perspective)-
  - [The Parable of the Prodigal Son](#) by David Marvin



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- [Your Own Prodigal Child](#) by Max Lucado
- [Hope for Parents of Prodigals](#) by Robert Morgan



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