

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking. **Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group. **Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

**Setting/Open:** We have been a prodigal, have one, or know one. The religious leaders were angry at Jesus because He did not represent God the way they thought He should. Contrary to their contempt for sinners, Jesus received them, showing compassion and giving them hope. (Luke 15:1-2) The heart of Jesus is reflected in Luke 15:10. Only Jesus could portray God as a loving, heavenly Father.

### Four Points and Four Takeaways

**1. Sick of Home (1-2).** Takeaway: Leaving home always begins in the heart. **Proverbs 4:23**

In verse 2 the son tells his father he wants his share of the inheritance before the father dies. What else does the son want? **A.** He wants freedom and independence; to get away from dad's rules and authority. He also wanted to get away from a judgmental older brother who represented who? **A.** The religious rulers.

**Note:** What attitude was the son expressing that prodigals have toward God and/or their parents? **A.** I want your blessings, but I don't want you. I want your provision but not your presence. "I wish you were dead!"

**Point:** The father gives the son what he wants – he couldn't force him to stay.

**2. Away from Home (15-16).** Takeaway: A life without God is a life without meaning.

**V13** Other words for prodigal living? Loose, reckless, foolish, wild.

**V14** He was in want – all his resources were exhausted. His "friends" are nowhere to be found. There is a famine in the land; but where else is there a famine? **A.** In the young man's heart.

Now that the young man is "slopping the hogs" and willing to satisfy his hunger with the "pods" the swine ate, what has he learned about the "freedom the world offers?" **A.** Again, that a life without God is meaningless.

**Quote:** "Sin takes us farther than we want to go; will cost more than we want to pay; and keeps us longer than we want to stay." Sin promises freedom and satisfaction at a low cost. But what is the truth about sin? **A.** It makes the sinner a slave, living a life of emptiness that will cost him everything.

**3. Home Sick (17-19).** Takeaway: When we come to the end of ourselves, we come to the beginning of God.

**V17** "he came to himself..." While someone is living a prodigal life, where is God? **A.** With the prodigal trying to bring them to their senses. A parent's heart breaks, but remember, God loves them more than we do.

**Points:** God can't let a person live a prodigal life cost free. We can't talk sense to them until they come to their senses. **Heb 3:12**

**V 18-19** How does a prodigal come home? **A.** They turn from their sin and say these four words, "Father, I have sinned." They take responsibility, admit their unworthiness and fall on God's grace.

**4. Home.** Takeaway: No matter how far we wander, God the Father will run to welcome us back.

**V20** What does the father have for his returning son? **A.** Compassion, even before he meets him. He embraced & celebrated his return, just like God embraces & celebrates the return of His prodigals.

**Five things to do if you have a prodigal:** **1.** Rest in the Lord. If you made mistakes, ask the prodigal for forgiveness. **2.** Stay true to your beliefs. Live your beliefs and be a good example. **3.** Don't give up on them. **Gal 6:9** **4.** Keep praying – they can't escape your prayers. **5.** Keep the door open.

**Start Praying & Start Doing.** Check Prayer Requests, & pray.

Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

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talk it over | week 11

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Find Your Way Back Home

Luke 15:11-24

Pastor Josh Sorensen