



PRODIGAL GOD

Discussion Guide

14-WEEK STUDY

IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

WEEK 8

Discussion Guide

Luke 15-16



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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Luke 15-16

GETTING STARTED

Goals this week: To better understand the Jesus' parables in Luke 15-16

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What is one thing you bought that you later regretted?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Note: The first few questions will focus on Jesus' three parables in **Luke 15** (Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Lost Sons), while the last few questions will focus on Jesus' parables in **Luke 16** (Shrewd Manager and Rich Man and Lazarus)

1. Did you read **Luke 15-16** last week? What was something that encouraged or challenged you from what you read? Discuss something that stood out to you from Sunday's sermon.
2. When you think about the people who were listening to Jesus (see **Luke 15:1-2**), what do you think this parable is about? Which character do you most identify with and why?
3. Have each person in the group use their phone to look up a picture of Rembrandt's famous painting *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Take a few minutes to reflect on the details of the painting, and then discuss your observations. **Note:** To get the conversation going, ask about some of the following: the son's clothes and shaved head, the father's hands and eyes, the light source, the son's feet, the similarities between the father and the man on the right.
4. Jesus' parable of the shrewd manager in **Luke 16:1-13** is often regarded as one of Jesus' most difficult parables to interpret and understand. Read the parable and then discuss it together.
 - (a) What parts of the parable are confusing?
 - (b) What parts make sense?
 - (c) Luke applies this parable in four ways (see vs. 8, vs. 9, vs. 10-11, and vs. 13). Which of these applications resonates with you the most and why?
5. Read Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus in **Luke 16:19-31**. Sometimes, preachers use this as a teaching about heaven and hell, but it seems that Jesus was more concerned about the rich man's selfishness, self-indulgence, and his disinterest in the plight of Lazarus (notice the contrast between Lazarus and the rich man in verses 19-21). In what ways do you see yourself in the rich man of the story?
6. Thinking back to the parable of the two lost sons, have the group read **Ephesians 2:1-10**.
 - (a) As you reflect on this passage in Ephesians, what stands out to you?
 - (b) What parallel themes do you notice in both passages?
 - (c) How should the realities presented in both the parable and **Ephesians 2:1-10** shape the way you live?

