

2022



ENTITLEMENT

FROM "TRIGGERS" SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Can you recall a time in your life where you felt you were owed something based upon who you are? What did you feel was owed to you? This week, we continue the "Trigger" series by unpacking, "Entitlement." The Parable of the Lost Son gives us an earthly example of the Prodigal Son who shows us what entitlement looks like, while his father reflects the love of our Heavenly Father. Let's do a self-check and further explore this trigger called entitlement.

Luke 15:12-14 - [12] The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. [13] "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. [14] After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

- Some people want promotion without due process.
- We serve a God that doesn't want us to run out and to be good stewards of what we have. We cannot have a spirit of entitlement.

WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL ENTITLED?

Your age - being the youngest (your education), being older (seasoned experience)

Your position - being a son (your title)

Your expectation - his share of the estate (wealth)

- We don't want anything before it's time. We trust the timing of God.

Entitlement comes from jealous behaviors.

- Jealousy is a sign of agitated worry and comes from:
 - Expectation - Owed Something
 - Emptiness - Missing Something
 - Entitlement - The Right to Something

James 4:3 - [3] When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

- God makes you wait until you're mature to handle what you're asking for.

Who are you currently holding feelings of jealousy toward? Why?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T GET IT?

You make it happen for yourself

AGE - MAKE IT HAPPEN

*Genesis 16:2 - [2] "And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, Jehovah hath restrained me from bearing; **go in, I pray thee, unto my handmaid; it may be that I shall obtain children by her.** And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai."*

- Be careful when we get anxious and try to make things happen out of the divine timing

of God. You can mismanage what God didn't plan for you to have prematurely, which can have lasting implications for many generations.

- God's promises are true. Stay in alignment and learn to trust Him and His timing.

Is there anything you have been waiting on God to do, but are getting anxious? How can you ensure you don't step out of alignment with God in your impatience?

You stop people from receiving anything

POSITION - STOP IT FROM HAPPENING

*Judges 11:2 - [2] And Gilead's wife bare him sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, **they drove out Jephthah, and said unto him, Thou shalt not inherit in our father's house;** for thou art the son of another woman. Jephthah brothers threw him out of the house to make sure he got nothing.*

- Don't block other people's blessings because you believe you are entitled due to your position.
- Watch out for people that appear to look out for you but are really hurting you.
- Check the motives of those who use your history with them against you.

Have you ever felt kicked to the curb by someone with a spirit of entitlement? Have you ever used your position/title as a means of getting what you want?

EXPECTATION - ASK FOR IT TO HAPPEN

*Luke 15:12 - [12] "The younger one said to his father, **'Father, give me my share of the estate.'** So he divided his property between them.*

- The son wanted his father's stuff without his mindset.
- You have to be able to ensure your gift doesn't take you where your character can't keep you.
- People expect to receive from things or places they haven't given to.
Nothing in = nothing out

Do you think you are ready for what you have been praying for? How do you know?

Proverbs 16:18 (MSG) - [18] First pride, then the crash – the bigger the ego, the harder the fall.

- Watch out for pride
 - Pride can show up thinking it's confidence, but it's arrogance.
 - Pride makes you want what you aren't prepared for and will receive it in an immature state. Trust the timing of God.
 - Pride will have you in over your head.
 - Pride will cause you to crash, impact you and those connected to you.
- Don't take the promise without the process.

What has God promised you and your pride forced you to get in the way and expedite the process?

THE SIGNS THAT YOU ARE NOT READY FOR WHAT YOU ASKED FOR!

LOCATION – He set off for a distant country

- Don't allow pride to separate and isolate you from everyone and everything you know.
- When your location changes, you are distant from the people that love you.

What's going on in your heart? What drew you out and made you isolate yourself?

SURROUNDING – He squandered his wealth

- People will take from you, have no idea what it takes to be you and drain you.
- People with no accountability and responsibility are in the wrong place.

Who are you surrounding yourself with? Are they hindering or helping you?

SPIRIT – He was living wildly

- He was trying to fit in with those he wasn't supposed to be around and doing things he wasn't supposed to do.

Who are you accountable to? Who is allowed to check you when you're out of control?

DELIVERANCE

*Luke 15:17 - [17] "**When he came to his senses**, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!*

- Stop living beneath your privileges and come to your senses. You are better than this! Acknowledge your true identity.

Check your location, surrounding, and spirit. Are you out of order? What do you need deliverance from?

*Luke 15:20a - [20] So **he got up and went to his father**.*

- Sometimes conversion only comes through a crisis.
- Come to your senses. Get up and go to your father.

What actions do you need to take to get back to where you need to be?

WHAT DID HE DO?

THE PRODIGAL SON

1. He came to his senses
2. He got up
3. He went to his father

*Luke 15:20b - "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.*

Luke 15:22-24 - [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.

- Stop running to people and get back to The Father. He is waiting for you to return.
- God will restore you. Repent and come back to Him. He will celebrate your return home.

WHAT DID THE FATHER DO?

THE FATHER

1. He saw him
2. He ran to him
3. He threw his arms around him
4. He kissed him
5. He put the best robe on him
6. He put a ring on his finger
7. He put sandals on his feet
8. He fed him
9. He celebrated him
10. He spoke a word over him

A FATHER'S LOVE

- The Father did 10 things and the son did 3. You don't deserve it, but He does it anyway.

THE PRODIGAL SON

1. He came to his senses
2. He got up
3. He went to his father

THE FATHER

1. He saw him
2. He ran to him
3. He threw his arms around him
4. He kissed him
5. He put the best robe on him
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Psalm 136:26 - Give thanks to the God of heaven. **His love endures forever.**

- God loves us in spite of our entitled ways. The Father is always waiting for us to come back home.

How has God shown you mercy and love when you walked away?

PRAYER

Father, thank You for loving me so dearly that You never let me go so far that Your love cannot reach me. Even when I allow my pride to step in the way, You remind me of who I am and that I belong to You. I repent for every prideful thought, word I spoke, and action that I took out of a sense of entitlement. Forgive me Father as I take the steps to return home to You. I thank You for deliverance from myself and my prideful ways. In Jesus' name, Amen!