

A Friend That Reaches

Faith for a Friend

March 29th, 2026

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OPENING QUESTION

When you hear the word ‘prodigal,’ who or what comes to mind for you—and why?

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Main Reading:

Luke 15:1-10

Additional Reading:

Mark 2:17

KEY TAKE AWAYS

The Heart – *A heart for seeing prodigals return*

Jesus came for the lost, and we must share His heart instead of becoming like the Pharisees (loveless religion).

The Search – *We don’t give up on anyone*

Like the shepherd and the woman, we keep searching “until” the lost are found; we join God in His rescue mission.

The Hope – *We long to rejoice when prodigals come home*

We carry real hope and expectation that sons, daughters, friends, and family will return, and we live/act/pray in light of that future rejoicing.

QUESTIONS

1. Based on Luke 15:1–7 (the lost sheep):
 - a. What do these verses show you about God’s attitude toward one lost person? How does that challenge or encourage the way you see people who are far from God?

2. Based on Luke 15:8–10 (the lost coin):
 - a. The woman searches “carefully until she finds it.” What might “searching carefully” look like for us today as we pray for and pursue prodigals?
3. The Heart – God’s heart vs. religious attitude:
 - a. In what ways do you recognize a bit of the Pharisees’ attitude in yourself (judgment, frustration, giving up on people)? What might it look like for you to “repent of a wrong heart” in this area?
4. The Hope – God’s joy over one who returns:
 - a. Luke 15 says there is “joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.” How does that picture of heaven’s joy shape the way you think and feel about the prodigals in your life?

PRACTICE

Naming and Carrying Our Prodigals Together

Quiet Reflection:

Ask everyone to sit quietly and pray:

“Holy Spirit, who is one prodigal (or spiritually distant person) you want me to carry in prayer right now?”

Have them settle on one name (or one household).

Sharing Our Prodigals:

Go around the group and have each person share:

The name and one sentence about why this person is on their heart.

Please listen to one another with compassion, not give advice.

Praying for Your Prodigal(s):

Keep it simple and focused—just a minute or two per person.

Commitment for the Week:

After praying, invite each person to commit to pray for their own prodigal

Next Meeting: Share a Glimpse of Hope

At your next gathering, start by asking:

“Did anyone see even a small sign of God at work in your prodigal—or in your own heart toward them?”

Celebrate even tiny shifts as part of God’s “search and rescue” work.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you for never giving up on us and for seeking us when we were far from you. We lift up every prodigal on our hearts and ask that you draw them back by your Spirit, soften their hearts, and remind them of every seed of truth that’s been sown. Give us your heart, your patience, and your love as we wait and pray. Let our lives reflect Jesus so that when they come home, they find both you and a welcoming family.