

Our **Virtual**

PowerGroup

A Place Called Home
Week 1 Study

Icebreaker

How old were you when you moved out from your parents house?
What led you to decide to move when you did?

Passage 1 Luke 15:11-20

The parable known as the Prodigal Son is one of the most famous of all the parables Jesus told. It is the last of three parables found in Luke 15 which highlight how God seeks sinners. In the beginning, the main characters of the story are introduced, a father and his two sons. Jesus then focused on the youngest son who asked the father for his share of the estate. Without protest, the father divided his estate and gave the youngest son his share. In turn, the youngest son then gathered everything together, which means he liquidated his entire share into money

Reflection What is your opinion about the younger son?

Why does he want to leave home?

What do his actions tell about his attitudes toward his father's wealth?
his father? life?

Is he the kind of person you would like to be with? to manage your
money?

What stages does the boy go through?

What causes the son to come to his senses?

What was his attitude like when he returns to his father?

In what ways are we like the younger son always trying to become
independent?

How does this story relate to how we try to run away from God?

Passage 2 Luke 15:21-25

In his desolate state, the son came to his senses and realized his father had enough food for him to survive. The son journeyed back home with the plan of asking his father to be hired as a servant thinking he no longer had the right to be recognized as a son due to his reckless rebellion. When the father saw the son, he did the unthinkable

Reflection How was the son expecting the father to react when he returned home?

How did the father react? What did the father do that was unthinkable in that culture?

What does the robe, sandals, and ring represent in that culture?

What is the father's primary attitude toward his son? Why?

Passage 3 Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus then moved to the crux of the parable, which was the oldest son's reaction to his brother's return. The father invited the oldest son to join the celebration, but the oldest son refused. He felt cheated because he had lived in obedience to the father, but never received any reward like his youngest brother. The father then replied with tender words which conclude the parable, "Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found"

Reflection Do you think the older brother is justified in his behavior? Why

What does the father want for the older son?

Which son do you identify with? Why?

How was the older son just as lost as the younger son?

How does the older son represent the pharisee's and churches?

Application

It's easy to see the sins of the younger son in the parable and we can often miss the sins of the older son. It's crucial to first take note of the audience Jesus addressed. It was a mix of the societal outcasts and religious elites. Jesus wanted to make the point that no matter where one travels to, the Father's heart is for the person to always return home. Whether you are the older or younger son, God has a place for you in his home!

What lessons did you learn from the story that you can apply to your own life? Who are you praying for that they return home back to God?