

LIFE Community Study Notes—June 17th



Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Lost Son

11Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12The 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. 14After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' 20So he got up and went to his father.

"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.

21"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'^[b]

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. 23Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

25"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

28"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

G R A C E C H A P E L

Big Idea: Desperate Households need the foundation of love to thrive.

Key Verse:

Luke 15:20

“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.”

Opening Question: Share a favorite family memory of your own.

Discussion Questions

Read Luke 15:11-32 together. This study is closely tied to Bryan’s message on Sunday.

Questions in bold below are suggested focus questions.
Sections in italics and parenthesis are for the leaders notes.

Bryan described LOVE in seven different sentences. These are listed below. Choose one or all of them and answer the questions that follow:

- Love knows when to let go.
- Love cannot and should not control people.
- Love is willing to wait.
- Love needs to be tough.
- Love never gives up.
- Love is beyond reason.
- Love makes a home.



1. Remind yourself where in the story you see each sentence lived out. (*Bryan described each sentences connection to the parable very well in his message.*)
2. Is each sentence true?
3. How is each sentence present in your own life?
4. How does God reveal this sort of love to you personally?
5. Choose two sentences: one that is a strength in your life, one that is a weakness in your life. How can you improve both?

As you end this study worship God together through prayer, singing and/or Scripture reading by focusing on the love of God as you experience it.

Leader’s Notes

1. *You can lead this study in one of three ways:*
 - *Stay together as a group and do one; a few or all of the sentences and questions.*
 - *Divide into smaller groups of 3-4 and do one; a few or all of the sentences and questions. Have each group report back their findings and discussions.*
 - *Have people do the questions on their own, again choosing one, a few or all of the sentences. Then have them each report back their discoveries and pray for each other.*
2. *Build the study towards the worship of God and his love. Encourage the group to pray for each other personally. Lay hands on each other if there is a need or feeling to. Especially pray for people who are feeling distant from the love of God and need to be touched by Him.*