



**Instructions:**

Group leaders, take some time before your gathering to look over these questions. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pick 3-5 questions to discuss that pertain to your group's unique style and needs.

**Message description:**

The prodigal son is a story in Scripture that might be familiar to many, but it is one worth revisiting for fresh insights about God's mercy. This week we focus on the younger son and his story of leaving his father's house and then squandering his inheritance. He returns home, assuming he will be allowed to be a servant in his father's house, only to find a warm embrace and a father overjoyed by his return. It is a picture of the love, mercy, and grace of a Father who, even before we have gotten ourselves cleaned up or put back together, is overjoyed to meet us where we are and to welcome us to the place we belong.

**Key Scriptures**

*Luke 15:11-22*

**Questions Related to This Week's Message:**

1. What did you hear differently about the story of the prodigal son this week?
2. Why do you think he returned home?
3. What might have kept him from returning home?
4. What does this story teach us the radical hospitality of God?
5. How can we continue to be a welcoming church community that meets people where they are?
6. Who might we be missing from this community and what can we do to prepare a place for them?

**Going Deeper:**

**Read Luke 15:1-10, the parables of the lost coin and lost sheep.**

- How do you hear these parables differently in light of the parable of the prodigal son to follow?
- Do you think the three are related?
- Who is Jesus responding to with these teachings?
- Who might the sinners and tax collectors be today?

**Pray together. Create intentional time and space to offer prayers for one another, that we might share in the comfort of Christ together and experience the Spirit's presence.**

**Consider the simple acronym of ACTS to guide your time of prayer together:**

- A- Adoration.** *Share praise reports or reasons to praise God. (Reading a psalm together can help)*
- C- Confession.** *Leave space to pray silently or individually to confess sins.*
- T- Thanksgiving.** *Share something in the group that you are thankful for this week.*
- S- Supplication, or petition.** *Share concerns and prayer requests you have.*