



The Good Father

Fenton Moorhead
Father's Day
June 18, 2017

► Discussion Guide

Use this guide to deepen your relationship with God. Try not to rush through these questions, but take time to learn and grow. Ask God to *open your eyes that you might see wonderful things in His Word* (from Psalm 119:18).

Conversation Starter

Have you ever had to apologize to someone? How did you feel about it beforehand? What were your feelings afterwards?

Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

Read [Luke 15:1-7](#).

1. [Vs. 1-2](#) describe two groups of people. Who are they and what's the main difference between them?
2. Why did Jesus tell the story of the man and his sheep to the Pharisees and teachers of the law? What are a few lessons He was teaching them?
3. What words would you use to describe the man in this story?
See also: [Psalm 28:9](#); [Isaiah 40:11](#).
4. What does it mean to repent, and why is repentance important?
See also: [2 Chronicles 7:14](#); [Proverbs 28:13](#); [Mark 1:15](#); [Acts 3:19-20](#).

Read [Luke 15:11-32](#).

5. Summarize the journey of the younger son ([vs. 12-19](#)). What was his experience like? Can you relate to him? If so, how?
6. Describe the older brother ([vs. 25-30](#)). What was he like? How did he respond to his brother's return? Can you relate to him? If so, how?
7. What can we learn about repentance from each of the sons?

8. Read [vs. 20-24](#) again. How does this strike you? What is most significant to you about the father's response to his son? Have you ever felt God's delight like this?
9. What is the significance of the specific things the father gives the son when he returns home?
10. What is God showing you about Him and about you in this week's teaching? Spend a few minutes in silence and ask Him what He wants you to know.

The story of the prodigal son is the story of a God who goes searching for me and who doesn't rest until He has found me.
– **Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Return of the Prodigal Son***

Soul Training

Set aside time each day this week to unplug from the world. Turn off the technology, set aside the tasks at hand, and get away from malls and shops and restaurants. Find a quiet place, and focus your attention on God. This can be 10 minutes or an hour. Talk with God. Sit in silence. Build the *practice of unplugging* into your daily routine.

Memory Verse

In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!
[Luke 15:7 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading*

- Day 1: [Luke 15:8-10](#) Day 4: [Deuteronomy 5:6-22](#)
Day 2: [Romans 5:6-11](#) Day 5: [Galatians 4:4-7](#)
Day 3: [Psalm 100:1-5](#)

* We'll return to readings in *The Life of Jesus* next week.

Prepare for Next Sunday

On Sunday, June 25, we'll return to *The Life of Jesus* series. Prepare ahead by reading [John 10:22-42](#) (Reading #128 in *The Life of Jesus*).