

Session 4

The Prodigal God

Redefining Lostness

Prayer

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Discussion Questions:

1. Have you recently watched children playing a game of Hide and Seek? Why do you think this game is so fun?
2. Read Luke 15: 3-10. What was the characteristic trait taking place in the finder of the lost sheep and the lost coin? What does Jesus say was the reaction in Heaven over a sinner who repents?
3. Answer the questions below to help you think about the relationships between the people in the parable:

How does the elder brother view himself?

His brother?

His father?

At the start of the parable, how does the younger brother view himself?

His brother?

His father?

4. How do the younger brother's views change and why?
5. How would the attitude of the elder brother make it harder for the younger brother to come home? How can you prevent this from happening in your own life?

6. The elder brother cannot pardon his younger brother for the way he has weakened the family's place in society, disgraced their name, and diminished their wealth. What does the author express as the underlying reason? (refer to page 55)
How have you struggled with similar emotions in response to situations in your life?

7. How might we encourage one another toward simple acceptance of God's grace and forgiveness?

Reflect:

My summary of the main point of this Session and how it impacted me personally:

Taking It With You:

Read Chapter 5 in preparation for next week's meeting.
Take notes or make comments from the reading below:

Remembering God

Take some time to think about how God has been a presence in your life: in times of transition, difficult times, and in your celebrations and successes. Have you thought about keeping a simple list of your prayers? You could note how God answers your prayers over time.

As a group you may already keep of record of your prayers and how they are answered. At the end of the year, take time to remember what you've asked of God and how He has answered.

