



Prodigal Son: Come Home | September 7, 2016

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

No matter what we have done and no matter how far we are from God, He longs for us to come home. God wants to throw a party in your honor!

Key Verse

Luke 15:20-24 (NIV)

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.

The son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son."

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

Discussion

When we do something wrong, we typically have to do something to earn trust, respect, or somehow pay back the wrong we have done. Whether it's a review at work, missing curfew as a kid, or screwing up with a spouse; we usually have work to do to account for the mistake(s).

1. Describe a time when you realized you had made a mistake or were told you made a mistake and what you had to do to account for it.

The Buddhist version of the Prodigal Son story supposedly has the son working for 20 years to account for his mistakes. If we were honest, we would most likely write the story the same way. In fact, we often behave this way when someone has screwed up in our lives.

2. Describe a time when someone in your life screwed up in a way that caused you to withhold trust, expect repayment, or at the very least needed to teach the other person a lesson.

Admittedly, there are times in our lives when healthy conversations need to happen or certain people in our lives who regularly hurt us need to be removed from our lives. Thankfully for us, it is different with God. No matter how often or how badly we mess up, he is waiting for us to return so He can throw us a party and invite everyone to join in. This party is not reserved for a select few...it is an open invitation to any and all...forever.

3. What things in your life have made you feel like you can't, shouldn't, or don't deserve God's acceptance, love, and insurmountable grace?
4. What things currently keep you in the pig slop instead of coming home to God?

What's Next?

Whether you have come home and left repeatedly, never been home, or are home regularly, God wants you at the party. If you feel like you want to come home but don't know what that might mean, contact us at support@faithinfive.com or reach out to a friend or local pastor. If you are embarrassed to come home because you know better, take some steps this week to engage God so that you take your first steps toward home. If you are home, pray for those who need to come home and examine your heart as to whether or not you feel like those who continue to leave home deserve to have a party.