



SUIT UP

PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD



What is your favorite city? Why?

Week : 11-21-21. "The Prodigal Son"

Read Together: Luke 15:11-32

Take It In

Watch today's Video:

Talk It Over

1. What do you think is meant by calling the younger son the "prodigal son" in this parable?
2. What is the most luxurious thing you have ever purchased? Why did you buy it? How did it make you feel?
3. Have you ever inherited something from someone? What was the process to receive your inheritance? What had to happen before you received the inheritance?

Live It Out

-Practice generous giving this week by not purchasing coffee shop coffee and using the money saved to give a gift to a charity of your choice.

Going Deeper

4. Look at Luke 15:11-12. Jesus often used parables to teach his hearers about God's character. In this parable there is a father and two sons. Who does the father represent? Who does the younger son represent? Who does the older son represent? (Hint: Luke 15:7) What is the younger son saying to the father when he demands his share of the property? Does it seem strange that the father gives the son what he asks for? Why or why not?
5. Look at Luke 15:15-19. The younger son has fallen so far from his lavish lifestyle that he is now a servant to pigs (something that was considered very scandalous in Jewish society, since pigs were unclean). Do you think that the younger son repents? Why or why not? What is required for repentance?
6. Look at Luke 15:20. Why does the father run to his son? Is this odd for him to do? What does compassion mean to you? Can you think of a time when you have experienced compassion for someone? Or when someone has been compassionate to you?
7. Look at Luke 15:21-22. Does the younger son repent? What does the robe, ring, and shoes signify? Are these given in response to the son's repentance? Why or why not?
8. Look at Luke 15:23-24. What does it mean to be dead? How did the son treat the father when he had left? How is the father treating the son now? Have you ever lost something only to find it again several days later? How did it feel to find it? Have you ever lost a friend because of an argument, and then reconciled months or years later? How did it feel to regain your friend?
9. Look at Luke 15:28-30. Notice the behavior of the older son and the father. Who is the "prodigal" in this parable. The younger son, the older son, or the father? Why does the father disregard his own standing and dignity for the older son? What could be the reason? How does the older son think the younger son should have acted toward the father? According to the older son, who does the younger son belong to?
10. Look at Luke 15:31-32. What is the older son missing in terms of how to relate to his father? Does the father justify himself to the older son? According to the father, who does the younger son belong to?

Leader's Guide

1. "prodigal" means to spend lavishly and recklessly.
4. The father is God. The younger son is a sinner. The older son is a self-righteous person who doesn't think he needs repentance, alluded to in Luke 15:7. The younger son is basically telling his father that he wants him to 'drop dead,' so that he can receive an inheritance. Both the younger son and the father are "prodigal" in their behavior because the father gives the son what he wants, allowing the son to treat him like he is dead!
5. The younger son has lost everything physically (all of his wealth) and spiritually (he is unclean because of service to pigs). In essence, he has completely lost himself. It could be implied that when he came to himself, this could mean repentance. However, his plan is more about bargaining than repentance. Repentance requires two things: contrition, or realizing you have done wrong; and faith, or relying on God's character to be just and merciful.
6. The father running to the son is strange because it is beneath his dignity as an important man in his culture. Powerful, important men don't run to anyone. They come to him. The word for "compassion" in the Greek is "esplangksthay." It is where we get our English word, "spleen." Compassion literally means 'love from the guts,' or being so moved by someone else's suffering that it affects you physically.
7. The son's status restored is not based on repentance but on the father's grace.
8. "Dead" means that you cannot do anything at all. The son had treated the father like he was dead. The father now treats the son as one who was dead and is now alive!
9. All three are acting like a "prodigal." The father shows his compassion for both sons by disregarding his own dignity to be in relationship with them. The older son thinks the younger son should act like a servant (as he has) to their father. According to the older son, the younger son belongs to the father.
10. The father does not justify himself to the older son. Instead he shows that relationship with him is more important than service to him. He wants the older son to also experience the joy of recovering his brother, who was dead to them. According to the father, the younger son belongs to the older son. Both sons belong to the father.