

**Luke 15:1-32 (ESV)**

**And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.**

**"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.**

The parable of the Prodigal Son is one of the great passages in scripture that expresses God's love for us in human terms that we can most fully understand. It describes the relationship between a father and a son. The son wants to experience life and live the way he wants to live, and the father, still loving him, allows him to do so. After the son spent all his money and wanted to eat with the hogs, he went back to his father's home in hopes of being his servant. But instead, he was welcomed back as the father's son.

This parable very adequately expresses God's love for us. All of mankind tends to chase the things of this world, but God chases us. He wants that relationship with us. He wants to be our father. Sometimes as we pursue the things of this world, we turn our backs on God and give into a life of sinfulness. The beauty of God's love is that He is always faithful. God is always like the father in this parable; He is there with open arms ready to accept the child back as a son or daughter.

**FAMILY TABLE TALK QUESTIONS**

1. How would you compare the love of your father with the love of God? How is this relationship different?
2. How would you encourage your father to be more like God?

**PRAYER FOCUS**

- Thank God for always being a Father that is willing to accept you back with open arms when you turn away from Him.

- Pray that God would forgive you for the times that you have turned away from Him.
- Pray for those who need to turn towards God.

THE DESIRE OF GOD'S LOVE: DAY 7