



Sermon Discussion Questions

For small group leaders or for a whole small group to use

"The Prodigal Father and His Two Lost Sons (Luke 15:11-32), February 22, 2026
Dan Weller

Sermon Overview

Main Idea

In response to the grumbling of the Pharisees, Jesus told three parables in Luke 15. The third and best known of these is referred to as the Prodigal Son. This is actually a tale of two lost sons and the lavish love of their father. The younger son makes an unthinkable request to receive his inheritance before his father's death. He receives it and squanders it on reckless living in a far country. He ends up homeless, impoverished, and hopeless. He returns home repentant, and the father restores him to the place of a beloved son. The older son was angered that his younger, rebellious brother was honored in ways that he never was while remaining home and obedient.

Sermon Outline

1. The Rebellious Son (v. 11-19)
2. The Prodigal Father (v. 20-24)
3. The Religious Son (v. 25-32)

Quotation(s)

"There is more than one way to get lost... We know that the prodigal son who leaves home is lost. The older son is also lost and separated from the Father even though he stays home the whole time... But there is only one way back home, through the lavish love of the prodigal father."
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Discussion Questions

Read the Scripture Text (if the text is shorter, consider reading it together several times).

Initial Engagement

- What is the main idea of the text, or what did the sermon focus on? (See above to review the main point)
- What insight from the text or sermon stood out to you most, and why? (Encourage several people to share)

Deeper Reflection on the Meaning and Implications

1. What significant themes and lessons of this parable have been compromised or lost by entitling it "The Prodigal Son"?
2. The younger son expected the blessings of a son while cutting off the relationship with his father. Have you been guilty of this in your relationship with the Lord or tempted to squander good gifts from God?
3. In what ways do you empathize with the confusion and anger of the older son? How have you had to deal with this kind of dynamic yourself? What is the father's response in verses 31 and 32 to us who find ourselves in this situation?
4. The word prodigal is applied to the younger son and means "recklessly wasteful". What is another meaning of it that allows us to call the father in this parable a prodigal?
5. How is Jesus the true older brother we need?

Final Response

- What is one thing you want to remember or do in light of this sermon or discussion?