

The Parable of the Lost Son - Luke 15:11-32

Topics: Bitterness, Celebration, Compassion, Family, Forgiveness, Greed, Jealousy, Judging Others, Love, Salvation, Wealth

Open It

- * 1. In what way did you and your siblings compete with each other?
- 2. How do you feel when other people get rewards greater than they deserve?
- 3. How do you normally react when you feel you have been treated unfairly?

Explore It

- 4. What did the younger son ask his father to do? (15:12-13)
- 5. What did the younger son do after arriving in the distant country? (15:13)
- 6. How did the younger son live once he was out on his own? (15:13-20)
- 7. Why did the younger son have to hire himself out for work? (15:14-15)
- 8. What made the younger son decide to return home? (15:17-19)
- * 9. How did the father respond to the younger son's return home? (15:20)
- * 10. Why did the father call for a celebration? (15:22-24)
 - 11. What was wrong with the older brother's reaction to his brother's return? (15:25-32)
 - 12. How did the older son respond to his brother's return and the celebration afterward? (15:28)
- * 13. What complaints did the older brother bring to his father? (15:29-30)
- 14. Why did the father want the older brother to be happy? (15:31-32)

Get It

- 15. What does the forgiving love of the father in this story represent?
- 16. How have you been like the prodigal son in this story?
- 17. When have you been like the older brother?
- 18. From whom do we tend to withhold mercy?
- 19. What people do you tend to think don't deserve God's mercy?
- 20. How have you personally experienced the forgiving love of the Father?
- * 21. What causes us to harbor resentment when mercy is shown to someone else?
- 22. What should we do when a vile person wants to be forgiven?
- 23. How should we react when a person comes to know Christ?
- * 24. How can you show compassion for those who have not believed in Christ?
- 25. What could you do to thank God for His amazing love for you?
- 26. What responsibility do you have to your unbelieving friends?
- 27. What does this parable reveal to you about the Lord's love?

Apply It

- 28. How can you guard yourself against feeling resentment when God shows mercy to people you think don't deserve it?
- 29. How can you show acceptance to someone who doesn't seem to deserve it? When?
- * 30. To what "undeserving" person can you extend God's love and forgiveness this week? How?