

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 27, 2008

Passage: Luke 15:11-32

Memory Passage: Proverbs 28:13.

**TODAY:** *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 15:11-13.** What did the younger son ask of his father? Whose role was it to initiate the dividing of the inheritance (Deut. 21:16; Gen. 27:1-4)? What kind of character does this show?
- (b) Why do you think the father would split the inheritance for the youngest? Do you think that he knew what was going to happen? Have you ever done something similar to the father in giving that which you knew would just be wasted?
- (c) What did the son do after he got his inheritance? Do you think that he had planned this out? Do you think he ever planned on returning home? Why/why not?
- (d) Why do you think the son was so eager to leave? What are some reasons that you want to escape responsibility? Why do think the son moved so far from home? Why does anonymity free people to live reckless lives? Can we ever do things in secret or away from those we love (Psalm 139:7-10; Jeremiah 23:23-24)?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 15:11-13. Discuss why the youngest son might have been dissatisfied with his life. What are some things that you often think will satisfy you? Read Psalm 63. How is following the Lord described? Do you want what David has? Pray that the Lord would give you a thirst for Him and that you would be satisfied in Him alone.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 15:13-16.** What happens once he has spent all that he has? What does the son realize when the famine hits? When do we normally realize our need for God?
- (b) What does the son first do when he realizes his need? Is it the natural tendency of man to go back to God (Proverbs 6:11; Ephesians 4:17-19)? Have you ever been brought to a low point in your sin like the son? Explain.
- (c) What kind of job did the young man get? What did the Old Testament say about pigs (Leviticus 11:7-8; Proverbs 11:22; Isaiah 65:1-7)? What kind of response would this have evoked from the listeners of the story? What would be a modern day example for us?
- (d) The young man desired to eat the pods the pigs ate. How is this like us when we fall into sin? Read Jeremiah 2:13.
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 15:13-16. Talk about a time when you have wandered away from the Lord. What was it that brought you back to Him? Read Luke 15:7 again. What did you find when you came back to God? Thank God that He is faithful to those who are faithless (2 Timothy 2:13).

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 15:17-19.** When the son finally “came to himself,” what was it that he realized?
- (b) What was the son’s motivation to return to his father? How is our motivation similar to the sons at times?
- (c) What was the son willing to give up when he returned? What was he willing to do? Why do you think that the son thought the father would receive him? How important is it to know the character of God?
- (d) What do you think the audience’s response would be to the son’s statement? What would your response have been to a son who left your home in such a way and then tried to come back all in one day? How about a friend?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 15:17-19. Discuss the attitude of the son as he sets off to return home. What is he willing to admit to his father? To whom is he willing to recognize his fault? Is it better to be servant of God or a servant of the world? Read Luke 6:13. What state must we be in when we return to the Father? Pray for hearts that are humble and eager to serve the Lord.

### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 15:20-24.** What was the son’s action once he decided that living as slave to his father was better? Was he able to make it all the way back home?
- (b) What did the father do as soon as he saw his son returning? How is this a picture of when we return to God?
- (c) In that day, if a man was going to run, he would have to hike up his robes, and this was a very undignified thing to do. What does this say about the love that the father had for the son? How has God done this for us?

(d) Read Philippians 2:5-11. Compare this passage with Luke 15:20-24. What things are similar in what God has done and what the Father did?

(e) Not everyone had a great earthly father and sometimes it is hard to identify with this picture of a father. Are there some characteristics that you find it hard to identify with or are there some ways that you fail to be like this father with others?

(f) *Family*: Read Luke 15:20-24 and Philippians 2:5-11. Take some time to talk about how Christ was like the father in the story. Compare what Christ has done and what the father did. Are you prepared to be like Christ and the father with your family? Pray that the Lord would help you to be like the father.

**DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(a) **Read Luke 15:25-32.** What happened when the older son found out about the party? Why was he angry? Why was he unable to rejoice in the brother's return?

(b) Can you identify at all with the older son? How so? Have you ever felt like you have been overlooked or passed over for praise and recognition? How do we get into the position where we think that we deserve to be praised?

(c) How does the father respond to the older brother? What keeps you from being able to rejoice at the return of the younger son?

(d) Who do you most identify with the older or the younger brother? Why?

(e) *Family*: Read Luke 15:25-32. Why does the older son not rejoice at the return of his brother? What does this say about him? What does the father do in response? Compare the attitude of the older and younger son. Compare the response of the father to each son. What does this teach us about God and how he responds to us? What are some ways that you are like the older son? Pray together that God would give you a humble hearts.

**DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**

**READ THE PASSAGE**

(f) *Think back through what you have learned each day this week.* Read Luke 15:11-24. Compare this story with that of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:28-36. What was it that the king said that brought judgment upon him? What happened as a result of his statement? What had he done right before he regained his senses? What did he do once his reason returned to him? How is this similar to the prodigal son? Pray that the Lord would keep your eyes turned toward heaven and not to yourself, your circumstances, or others.

**DATE:** October 26, 2008

**PASSAGE:** Luke 15:11-32

***Parable of the Lost Sons***  
*“My son was dead but now he is alive!”*