

THE ONE

Week 3 Leader Guide- Ignoring The One

THE WIN

We are praying that our group leaders and members would recognize the “prodigal” love of the Father and respond with “prodigal” love towards the One by re-orienting our group schedule.

1-2
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In the message this week, we learned from the parable of The Two Sons that God’s love is so extravagant that we cannot afford to ignore the Ones in our life. His love can melt even the hardest of hearts towards those who are far from God.

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

What type of child were you growing up? Were you more of the “wild child” or the “parent-pleaser?” Have you seen that change over the years?

30-35
minutes

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

The Text:

Have someone read Luke 15:11-32

Do This:

Break up into two groups and have each discuss one of the following characters:

Group 1: Older Brother (The Parent Pleaser)

How does the older brother view:

- Himself?
- His brother?
- His father?

Group 2: Younger Brother (The Wild Child)

At the *beginning* of the parable, how does the younger brother view:

- Himself?
- His brother?
- His father?

Come back together and have each group share their answers with the larger group.

Ask This:

- What is the great similarity between the two brothers?

Answer: Both of them are lost!!

Tim Keller explains it this way in his book *The Prodigal God*: “You have two sons – one good, one bad. But they’ve both been alienated from the father. And you come to realize, they both want the father’s things but not the father. They’ve both been using the father to get the things they really loved – which is his wealth and the status. But one has been doing it by being *very, very bad* and the other has been doing it by being *very, very good*.”

Say This:

Now, let’s look at the end of the parable. Both brothers have rejected a relationship with the father in different ways. Eventually, the younger brother comes to the end of himself and tries to return home. However, the younger brother stubbornly refuses to embrace him.

Ask This:

- How does the father treat the younger brother when he tries to come home?
- How does the father treat the older brother when he responds stubbornly?
- How does this help us understand the love of God?

In the dictionary, prodigal can be defined as “recklessly extravagant” or “lavish.”

- If this is the case, who is the true “prodigal”?

Answer: The father! He is dishonored greatly by both of his sons, and would have every right to disown both. Yet he goes out and pursues both the younger brother and the older brother to invite them into his feast. He is recklessly extravagant with his love towards both. Yet one accepts his invitation (the younger), while the other refuses and remains outside the feast (older).

Read A.W. Tozer’s amazing quote about God’s love from *The Knowledge of The Holy*:

“Because God is self-existent, His love had no beginning;
because He is eternal, His love can have no end;
because He is infinite, it has no limit;
because He is holy, it is the highest essence of all spotless purity;
because He is immense, His love is an incomprehensibly vast, bottomless, shoreless sea.”

Ask This:

- Which one of these attributes of God’s love is most thrilling to you and why?
- Which is the more dangerous position spiritually- the younger brother or the older brother? Why?
- Do you tend to behave more like a younger brother or older brother at this point in your life?
- How can you repent and seek restoration with God when you see this happening?

Our “prodigal” God has reckless love towards the One. He fiercely pursues both younger brothers and older brothers that are far from him to invite them to experience the joy of relationship with Him. As he has pursued us, we must pursue others as a group.

Ask This:

- How could your group use the Super Bowl as an opportunity to make friends or deepen relationships with people far from God?

Do This:

Brainstorm and agree on a place (other than Sunday morning worship or your weekly LifeGroup meeting) that your group can get together regularly to meet and make friends with those who are far from God. Be creative! Think of a place that you would enjoy hanging out together.

Examples: Parks, Neighborhood Pool, Coffee Shops, Sporting Leagues, Community Service, etc.

Are there shared interests that 2-3 people in the group have? You can team up to begin doing these things together to make friends with people far from God.

Set a date on the group calendar to put this into action. God will be with you!

5-10
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

For deeper insight, watch this 10-minute video clip from Tim Keller on “Leading People to the Prodigal God” (either with the group or on your own). **Leaders:** This will help you prepare you for the overall discussion if you watch beforehand.

<https://youtu.be/LHuyDLMTCJs>

Consider forming Fight Clubs or Become Groups and read the either the gospel of *Luke* or the book *The Prodigal God* together over the next month.

<http://rushcreek.org/ministries/men/fight-clubs/>

<http://rushcreek.org/ministries/ladies/become-groups/>