

SESSION 1 PARTICIPANTS' HANDOUT

THE PRODIGAL SON - WHY PARABLES?

THE SON PRODIGAL

VIEW

Watch Session One: *The Prodigal Son* (8 minutes)

SESSION BIG IDEA

Parables have meaning and purpose and are a great way to connect with the listener. Parables are earthly stories based on familiar content and used to teach great spiritual lessons.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Read Luke 15: 11-32

Notes

APPLICATION

Thinking back to what you know of the life and times of Christ, what might be some reasons Jesus often taught using parables? Are those same reasons still applicable today?

Describe a "prodigal"? Reflect on a time in your own life when you also might have been like the rebellious son.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Parables are often used to invoke self-reflection in the listener. List below a few traits you observe for each of the main characters. Circle the traits that you identify with most in your own life.

The Rebellious Son: _____

The Religious Brother: _____

The Righteous Father: _____

MEMORIZE

Bible memorization is important for believers. Choose one of the following passages to memorize this week:

- Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

PRAY

Devoted prayer is a heart tendency to turn to God throughout our day. We might think we have to pray passionate, persuasive words for God to hear us, but in reality He listens even to our most simplest of prayers. Commit to spending at least five minutes in prayer each day. Read the Bible and pray over verses. You may also make prayer active and multi-sensory by listening to music or doodling while you talk to God.

ENCOURAGE

Ask God to bring into your path opportunities to be an encouragement to someone each day this week. Also, ask Him to make you constantly aware when those opportunities arise.