

VIEW

Watch Session Six: *The Prodigal Son* (13 minutes)

SESSION BIG IDEA

Each person is precious to God, who yearns for us to be with Him and celebrates the return of those who are lost.

BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Story Notes: _____

IN REVIEW

Describe in as much detail as possible the setting and target audiences for this particular parable. What was Jesus trying to teach? _____

Thinking back to the beginning of this story, the implication is that the younger son cannot wait for his father's death for his inheritance, he wants it immediately; the fact that the inheritance is divided between both sons (the older son not refusing his share at this time either) may allow us to draw some conclusions as to the state of the brothers' hearts. Compare the actions and attitudes of each son from the beginning of the story to the end. In what ways do they seem to change or remain the same? What was the constant mood of the father's heart?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Visualize the forgiveness of the father as shown in the following verses, "But the father said **to his servants....**And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it: and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. **And they began to be merry.** (Luke 15:22-24) This depiction of the the father forgiving the unforgiveable, replacing rags with riches, slaughtering a fat calf in preparation for a feast, and welcoming the young man with open arms and great celebration, seems to have served as a great testimony to the servants in his household. Discuss how offering forgiveness provides opportunities to teach valuable lessons to those around us.

Christian psychologist, Dr. Archibald Hart defines forgiveness as, "Giving up my right to hurt you for hurting me." Jesus said it like this: "**And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.**" (Mark 11:25). In what ways might finding the emotional and spiritual maturity to forgive others begin a healing process?

MEMORIZE

Take a few minutes this week to memorize the following verses: "***If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***"

"For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you."

PRAY

Father, thank you for removing my sins, for washing me in the blood of Jesus, and in that very moment changing my nature and writing my name in the Lamb's book of Life. Lord, I repent for my own apathy concerning the miracle that takes place when a lost man is saved. Help me never forget the price that You paid for my salvation. Even more, I ask for Your fire to burn in my heart in a fresh way for those who are still unrepentant. I ask You for open doors for me to tell others about the love of Jesus Christ so they can be spiritually awakened by the Spirit of God. I pray this in Jesus' name!