

Small Group Study Guide, Week of May 31, 2026

Luke 15:11-32, "The Prodigal Son," Pastor Jake

Ice Breaker: Did you ever run away from home? Where did you go? What happened?

Dig:

1. As context, read Luke 15:1-2. What issue is Jesus addressing in this parable?
2. Why do you think the prodigal son leaves home? What causes the son to come to his senses? What is his attitude when he returns home?
3. Do you think it was wise for the father to give his son his inheritance when he knew his son would likely blow it? What do you think the father was doing while his son was away? How does the father greet his son upon the son's return home? Was throwing a big party a wise idea?
4. How does the older brother feel about his younger brother's return? Why? How does the father respond to the older brother's objection? Returning to Luke 15:1-2, how does Jesus' parable answer the question?

Apply:

5. Who do you identify with the most in this story, the prodigal son, the older brother, or the father? Why? Has that changed over the course of your life? How and why?
6. What prodigals do you know now? How is God calling you to respond?

Adapted from Serendipity Bible (1988), This Morning with God (1978), Search the Scriptures (1978)