

The Prodigal Son

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Introduction:

This parable illustrates God's unconditional love and willingness to forgive. The story of the Prodigal Son shows that no matter how far we stray, we can always return to the Father.

Expanded Summary of the Scripture:

The parable of the Prodigal Son is part of a series of stories Jesus tells to illustrate God's love and forgiveness. A younger son asks for his inheritance early, leaves home, and squanders it on reckless living. When he finds himself destitute and feeding pigs, he decides to return to his father, hoping to be received as a servant. To his surprise, the father welcomes him with open arms and celebrates his return with a feast. However, the older brother becomes resentful, feeling that his faithfulness was overlooked. The father reminds him that everything he has belongs to him and urges him to rejoice over the return of his lost brother.

Explanation of the Lesson Scripture:

This parable illustrates God's boundless grace and love for those who turn back to Him in repentance. It teaches that no matter how far we stray, God is always ready to receive us. The father's reaction contrasts with the older brother's bitterness, revealing how grace sometimes challenges human notions of fairness. This story urges believers to examine both their relationship with God and their attitudes toward others who receive forgiveness. It encourages the church to be a place of reconciliation, welcoming back those who have strayed with joy rather than judgment.

Life Application:

This lesson encourages us to examine our hearts. Do we need to return to God in repentance? Or are we harboring unforgiveness toward others?

Reflection:

What steps can you take today to embrace God's forgiveness or extend grace to someone else?

What You Need to Know:

God's love is unconditional and always available.

Forgiveness restores relationships and brings peace.