**Strong Tower Bible Study**

**Agenda**

**Lesson**

**Time 6:00pm -7:00pm**

**Study Topic: Bitterness**

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Scripture text: Luke 15:11-31

**The Parable of the Lost Son**

**11**Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. **12**The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

**13**“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14**After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15**So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16**He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

**17**“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18**I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19**I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ **20**So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

**21**“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

**22**“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23**Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. **24**For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

**25**“Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. **26**So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. **27**‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

**28**“The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. **29**But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. **30**But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

**31**“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. **32**But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

**Things to know:**

**Prodigal: “**spending money or resources freely and recklessly; wastefully extravagant.”

Each person is responsible for how they handle their own feelings

We will all give an account to God

**Tips for parenting a Prodigal child:**

1. Let them go- Locking them up won’t change their heart
2. Face your feelings-It’s okay to not be okay, no parent is perfect
3. Stay encouraged-The same loving God who save you WILL save them, in his way and in HIS time
4. Let them fail-They will learn what works and what does not, they will also learn their limitations
5. Remember the other children (if you have them)-Siblings often feel lets out and resentful of their sibling’s behavior
6. Be Expectant-The Lord Will prevail
7. Don’t come to the rescue too soon-There is a difference between Remorse and Repentance.
8. Offer GRACE-Why? Because the Lord offers it to us! People know when they have messed up, rubbing it in their face will only weaken your witness of the LOVE of Christ.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think the father was so happy that the Parodical came home?
2. What caused the Parodical to “come” to himself?
3. Has there been a situation in your life that has caused you to “come” to yourself?
4. What did the father miss?
5. What made the brother so “angry”?
6. What caused bitterness to creep into the older brother’s heart?
7. Who was responsible for the brother’s bitterness?
8. Can you see the Lord working in the life of the Father, Older brother, and the younger brother? If so How?

**Scriptures on Bitterness:**

1 Samuel 30:6

Romans 5:8

Hebrews 12:14-15

Ephesians 4:31

Ephesians 4:26

1 Corinthians 14:20

1 John 1:9

James 1:9

**Closing Prayer:**