



ONLINE

Weekly Bible Study
Wednesday, October 23,
2024

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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FIRST LUTHERAN MONN MOUTH

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Gathered by God, We Live Our Faith with: Compassion, Grace, Gratitude, and Joy.

Introduction: The Parable of the prodigal son is one of the most familiar to us. It is set in Luke 15 as part of a set of three short stories about items that are lost and found again. One of the dangers to such a familiar parable is presupposing what the point of parable is. In fact the mere mention of the title already presupposes who the story is about, a son who has returned. It presupposes questions, like why did the son run off? How will the son be received when the son returns home? And because we have heard it so often, we tend to find a character within the parable that we easily associate with. We are then either surprised by the ending, or we are thankful for the ending, or we are in amazement that Jesus would suggest such an ending. For today's study, it may be hard to set aside all that we know about this parable but that is what I suggest. Forget the title for a moment, and discover where the story takes you today.

Read: Luke 15:11-32

Open your Bible and read through the passage. Once you have read through this passage, take three large deep breaths, read the passage a second time. Take note of what words jump out at you. What words do you need to look up for clarity of definition. Take three large deep breaths again. Read the passage one more time.

Seek:

Which brother are you more like in this story? What characteristics about this brother do you really relate with?

The father is often linked to the "God" figure. He receives back his brother in a stunning display of mercy. And even leaves the party to go talk with the elder son, who has so far refused to enter the party. How do you connect with the father in this story? What does the father have to teach you?

The ending is not actually about the younger brother and his return, but about the elder brother and his refusal to enter the party. How do you image the story continuing? Does that elder brother go in? Is there truly reconciliation between brothers? Why should the brothers reconcile?

Pray

Lord Jesus, your stories of reconciliation and forgiveness continue to resonate in my heart with wonder and amazement. May I be as inspired by your parable from this family that I, too, may experience the fullness of reconciliation and forgiveness in my life with those from whom I have been estranged. In your holy name, I pray. Amen