

# IMAGINE

*forgiveness*

I Can Only Imagine Series  
Luke 15:1-3, 11 - 24

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*There was a man who had two sons. The **younger one** said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. (v. 11 – 12)*

**We learn two things about the son:**

1. He is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. He wants \_\_\_\_\_.

**Ask yourself: When have I been like the younger son?**

**And we learn something about the father:**

1. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ him to go!

**If we choose our own way, we have to ACCEPT the responsibility for it.**

*"Not long after that, the younger son packed up all he had. Then he left for a country far away. There he wasted his money on wild living. He spent everything he had. Then the whole country ran low on food. So the son didn't have what he needed. (v. 13 – 14)*

Eventually the son realizes that \_\_\_\_\_ on his father was not weak, it was wise.

*“Then he began to think clearly again. He said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough food! But here I am dying from hunger! I will get up and go back to my father. I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven. And I have sinned against you. I am no longer fit to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’” So he got up and went to his father. (v. 17 – 20a)*

### HOW DOES THE FATHER RESPOND?

1. The Father \_\_\_\_\_ to him.

*“While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him. He was filled with tender love for his son. He ran to him. He threw his arms around him and kissed him. (v. 20b)*

2. The Father did not see his \_\_\_\_\_, he saw his response.

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

*“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. Bring the fattest calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. This son of mine was dead. And now he is alive again. He was lost. And now he is found.’ So they began to celebrate. (v. 21 – 24)*

3. The Father forgave his younger son, and it \_\_\_\_\_ him.

### HOW DID THE OLDER SON RESPOND?

1. He was angry.
2. He wouldn’t go in!

You might be like the older son if...

- You **QUESTION** when someone has a change of heart (repents).
- You would rather **CRITICIZE** than celebrate.
- You don’t try to **UNDERSTAND** the Father’s heart for another person.

*Forgive other people when they sin against you. If you do, your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive the sins of other people, your Father will not forgive your sins. (Mt. 6:14 – 15, NIRV)*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...*

### THE MAIN POINT:

**FORGIVENESS IS THE FUEL OF A HEART DRIVEN BY CHRIST.**



**Doggy Bag:** *Something to Chew On and Ponder This Week.*

1. Do you consider yourself an imaginative person? What role does imagination play in your life? How have the arts helped you cope with the pain of life?
2. Read the story of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11 - 32. What has been your view of God? How does this story challenge or encourage your view?
3. Who do you identify with most in this story? What does it mean to you that God celebrates your return to him? Reflect on your forgiveness from God, then consider who you might need to forgive this week.