

THE THREAD | THE GOSPEL COME TO LIFE

Lesson 8: The Parable Of The Prodigal Son

Dear Parents,

Hello again! We just wrapped up the eighth of our 13 lessons, looking at *The Gospel Come To Life* in our study of the big-picture story of the Bible called *The Thread*. This lesson was entitled “The Parable of the Prodigal Son,” and it focused on helping students understand that the Prodigal Son is a parable that demonstrates the great love and joy Jesus has for those who return “home” to Him. As we dug deeper into this parable of Jesus, students learned how to start viewing people through the same lens God views us. They discovered that it starts by having a healthy view of ourselves; whether we are more like the younger or older son, we are all desperate for the Father. We’re all desperate to come home and join the party. When we realize none of us deserve it but that the Father wants us, we can start seeing everyone as loved and valued by the Lord.

Lesson Overview: In this lesson, we’ll be studying one of the most well-known passages in Scripture. In the Parable of the Lost Son, we see a beautiful picture of how our Heavenly Father sees each one of us. Whether we are wild and rebellious or upright and stuffy, He loves each of us the same and wants us to come home to Him. Too often, we are judgmental about how others live and fail to see them the same way God does. In this lesson, we’ll be challenged to see other people as Christ sees them.

What We Want Your Teenager To Learn: Understand that the Prodigal Son is a parable that demonstrates the great love and joy Jesus has for those who return to Him and see the great value God places on the lost.

What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They’ve Learned: Re-evaluate how they look at others and consider what it would be like to see people as Christ sees them.

Scripture Passages We Studied: Luke 15:11-32; Luke 15:4-7

Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.

NEXT STEPS...

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- Is it hard for you to imagine God valuing you and loving you the way the Parable of the Lost (Prodigal) Son demonstrates? If so, why?
- Is it hard for you to view and value people the same way God does? If so, why?
- How can we as a family do a better job of valuing both groups of people discussed in the parable, the reckless and the self-righteous?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I’m praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don’t hesitate to let me know.