

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION

WEEK: NOVEMBER 22-28, 2025

SERIES INFO

The Wanderer. The Rule Keeper. The Reckless One.

Based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son

PERSONAL FUN FACTS

Are you a person who loses things easily, or has a place for everything? What's something you've lost that sent you into full-panic search mode?

TAKEAWAYS

What were the greatest “takeaways” you had from the message this week about the Wanderer (the younger son) in the parable of the Prodigal Son?

DISCUSSION

The “Lost Parables”

Scripture: Luke 15:1-32

As we begin to dive into the Parable of the Lost Son (Prodigal Son), we are really looking at three parables that deal with “lostness.” To set the tone for the story of the Lost Son, Jesus lays down the emotional and theological foundations, in the “Lost Sheep” and the “Lost Coin” by creating a picture of how the Father is relentless in His pursuit to search for, rescue, and celebrate the return of what was lost. With the “Lost Son,” Jesus added the layer of relationship—flesh and blood—exposing the hearts of both people who are rebellious, but also the religious leaders who were the recipients of the stories. These stories help our understanding of God: His mercy, compassion, and His love.

- How do the first two parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin prepare the listener for the parable of the Lost Son?

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DISCUSSION CONTINUED

- What might the Pharisees that Jesus was addressing in this passage of Scripture have been feeling after hearing the first two parables and before the third parable even begins?
- Here is the famous painting by Rembrandt, *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. What can be said about the father figure in the story of the Lost Son? What do you notice about the “wanderer,” or the “younger son?” For those who appreciate symbolism, this is a great piece to consider.



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DISCUSSION CONTINUED

The Wanderer's Journey

Scripture: Luke 15:13-15

The troubling thing about this story of one who has wandered away is that the younger son not only breaks social and familial rules—he is very willing to break with relationship. This is a different kind of lostness; it is not an issue of misplacing something but about disconnection—in this sense, disconnection with his father. Tragically, the younger son's demand for his father to give him his share of the inheritance was the equivalent of saying, "I wish you were dead."

- What modern-day "distant countries" do people run to in search of freedom or fulfillment?
- Why do you think the younger son (wanderer) believed that his life would be better away from his father?

The Wanderer's Coming to His Senses

Scripture: Luke 15:17-20

Clarity returns when the younger son hits rock bottom while at the bottom of a pig pen. You can tell he has remorse, and a desire to return.

- What does it mean to "come to your senses" spiritually? Have you ever experienced that kind of awakening?
- The younger son plans to return as a lowly hired servant, not as a son. Why is repentance often misunderstood as needing to work your way back to God?
 - Why is it difficult for people to accept God's grace without feeling the need to earn it?

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APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT

- Where is God calling you to return home, spiritually or emotionally?
- Who in your life is a “lost son” or a “lost daughter” that you are called to pursue with grace? (In other words, who do you need to run after?)

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for pursuing us when we wander and for running toward us when we turn back. Give us the humility of the younger son when we knowingly distance ourselves from You. As well, form in us a heart that rejoices when the lost are found. May our lives reflect Your grace and our church echo Your celebration when not-yet believers and those returning come to You.

In Your name, Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Ministry Breakfast

December 6, 8:00 am

Rich Nye, Speaker

Christmas Series

Weekends of December 13/14, 20/21

We Remember Service

December 14, 5:00 pm

Christmas Eve Services

December 23, 7:00 pm

December 24, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 11:00 pm