



## A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme: Stories of Jesus  
Text for the Week: Luke 15:25-32  
Story for the Week: The Prodigal Story II  
Message for the Week: An Incomprehensible Community

**Week Six**  
**Sunday, July 24**

### Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Were you considered to be a "good child" growing up? Why or why not?

### Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

### Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Luke 15:25-32](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

## Respond / Reflect:

Are you quick to or hesitant to eat with “sinners”, people who are far away from God? Why?

How comfortable are you with God’s unconditional love for all people?

Do you identify with the younger son or the older son or both? Why?

Would the people who know you best say you are like the younger brother or like the older brother? Why?

What is self-righteousness? How does self-righteousness, just like our sin, swivel us away from and separate us from God?

Do you think the older son ever changed his mind?

Where are you at in relation to your heavenly Father? Are you far off, in the field, near the house or inside at the banquet?

What is your main take away from this parable?

## “Try It!”

Challenge for the week: Be aware of both “younger brother” situations AND “older brother” situations that we encounter throughout our day. Where and how can you extend and/or receive grace in each of these situations?

## Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

*Father, we give you thanks and praise, that while we were stubborn and self-righteousness, you left the celebration of heaven, and in Jesus Christ provided a way for us to come home and pleaded with us to accept his love and grace as the only way to come home and be with you. Thank you for welcoming us as sons and daughters instead of hired hands and servants. Thank you that in Christ, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of Your grace that you have lavished on us. (cf. Ephesians 1:7,8). In the name of Jesus our Teacher and Rabbi, Amen.*

## Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Celebrating with Others

During the month of July, you are encouraged to “celebrate” with people that you don’t know very well (Luke 15). It could be with a neighbor, a classmate, or a co-worker. Invite someone to join you for

Wednesdays on the Lawn. Celebrate the birth of our nation, the sunshine and warm weather, an anniversary, National Slurpee Day (7-11), or just being neighbors. Eat at a restaurant close to your house, in your backyard or driveway, or at a nearby park. Be open to meeting and getting to know new people. Experiment with different ways to celebrate.

Covenant CRC - 7171 Willard Ave SE - Grand Rapids, MI 49548  
[info@covenant-crc.org](mailto:info@covenant-crc.org) | <https://covenant-crc.org/>