

FAMILY WORSHIP

The Prodigal Son

Reading: The story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32.

Discussion Ideas:

- When the younger son returned home, how was he feeling? How did his father feel? How did the other brother feel? Why did the older brother feel that way?
- What did the father say to his elder son? (“Son, you are always with me and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.”)
- Read or tell your family about the two stories the Lord told right before the parable of the prodigal son—the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:4-7) and the parable of the lost coin (Luke 15:8-10). When the man finds his sheep, he says to his friends and neighbors, “Rejoice with me for I have found my sheep which was lost!” When the woman finds the lost coin, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, “Rejoice with me for I have found the piece which I lost!” Then the Lord added, “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who *repents*” (Luke 15:10).
- With younger children, discuss how we move away from the Lord and His angels when we do what is wrong. But when we are sorry and stop doing what is wrong, the Lord and the angels are happy. Then like the prodigal son returning from a far country, we move closer to the Lord in our minds.
- With older children and teens, you may wish to discuss “What is repentance?” It is being truly sorry about doing what is wrong, not because it had negative consequences for us, but because we see that it is a sin against God. The unhappiness that our actions bring on us—or to those we love—can serve as a catalyst to help us commit to changing our ways, but we must also turn to the Lord our Father with true humility.