

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

October 10/11, 2015; The Moral of the Story

Speaker:

Pastor Dick Foth

Scripture Focus: Luke 15:11-32

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed the parable of the prodigal son. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: Dick Foth stated that his title for this message was, "Lost and Found." What is something valuable you lost as a kid that you wish you still had?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways did this parable speak to where you are now in your life?

Specific Questions:

1. Dick Foth stated that, "The feeling of *lostness* is a terrible feeling, because you're not sure if you'll ever get back." Do you relate to this statement? Why or why not? Have you ever been lost? Describe how you felt at the time. How did you feel once you were 'found'?
2. Reread the parable (Luke 15:11-32) out loud, focusing on both the behavior and character of each person in the story. What are the primary characteristics of each person? How does their behavior express these? What changes, if any, do you see in them throughout the parable?
3. We learned that a son asking his father for his inheritance would be "unbelievable" during Jesus' time, yet the father in the parable said *yes*. What does this show us about God's character?
4. One of Dick Foth's main points of the message was that, "selfishness ends in the

unimaginable,” further stating that selfishness takes us to places that are unimaginable. Where has selfishness taken you before? What have you done to keep from falling back into past patterns of selfishness? What could you do going forward?

5. In the parable, when the son returns, his father runs to him, kisses and hugs him, and welcomes him home. What do these actions in the parable reveal about God’s character? How do these reflections of God’s character make you feel? Why?
6. Dick Foth summed up the story by stating, “This is a story of a kid who, because he wanted to do it his own way, had run out of relationship.” Have you ever hurt a relationship because you wanted to do things your own way? What was the outcome? Were you able to come back? If so, how did that go? If not, how did that make you feel? What have you learned from that experience?
7. Think of a time someone extended grace to you when you were expecting blame or shame. How did that make you feel? Have you ever been in a position to be the one to extend grace? Did you? If so or if not, how did that make you feel? What is your relationship with that person now?

Challenge:

Read, Pray, Act: Read and pray through Luke 15:11-32. Think through which brother you associate with more – the younger, the older, or neither? Why is that? Have you always associated with the same brother? If so, why? If not, when or what made that change?

One of the differences between the two is that the younger brother doesn’t think he deserves the father’s grace, while the older brother doesn’t think he needs the father’s grace. Write down other differences between the brothers and pray through any characteristics that you recognize in yourself. As you do this, pray that God will continue to reveal his grace and love to you!