



Week Leading up to 3.27.22: The “Faithful” Son

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting’s challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let’s Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, may we have hearts that beat with Your heart. May we have minds that think as You do. May we have ears that hear what You hear, eyes that see what You see and tongues that speak Your mercy. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What are some of your initial reactions to this reading? Is there something in particular that sticks out to you?

YouTube Video: The Prodigal Son’s Older Brother with Dr. Brant Pitre (7:39 min) - <https://youtu.be/r3ZzHnU4RCI>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. When hearing or reading the story of the prodigal son previously, have you reflected on the older brother? In Jesus’ depiction of the older brother, what spiritual lessons is He conveying?
3. Dr. Pitre says about the older brother that, “Even though he’s a son, he sees himself as a slave.” Do you find this easy to relate to when considering our relationship to God? Difficult to relate to? Why or why not?
4. How do you envision your relationship to God (e.g., slave, servant, son/daughter)?
5. Do you perceive your relationship to God the Father or God the Son or God the Holy Spirit differently? In what ways?
6. This is an extreme example, but imagine you die and are just outside the gates of heaven and you peer in to see someone who has deeply wounded you or someone that did truly evil things on earth like Hitler. How would you react to seeing them in heaven? Why?
7. Will the lesson from this parable change how you relate to those not practicing the faith in any way? How about how you relate to God?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Pray for an increase in mercy and compassion in your own heart.
- Consider reaching out to a “younger brother” - anyone with whom you are cut off from (at minimum spend the week intentionally praying for them).

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Lord God, in this season of Lent, convict us of our own personal wounds and errors. Stir in us the grace to be people of mercy and compassion, especially when we want justice and vengeance. Trusting in Your mercy and compassion, we offer You our personnel intentions... {pause}...Dear Jesus, we offer these intentions and all that remain silent in our hearts. We trust in Your love for these people and us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Josh 5:9a,10-12; Reading 2: 2 Cor 5:17-21