

## Family: Investing in Something That Lasts | Part 5

Lesson 7

Luke 15:11-32; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; James 4:1-2

May 19, 2024

### Parenting Toward Restoration in the Relationship

#### INTRODUCTION

While the Parable of the Lost Son is Jesus' route to find "lost sheep" and restore them for God's kingdom, the objective of this lesson is to focus on the illustrative language of the parable.

Everyone, even non-believers, has heard of the Prodigal Son. The *adjective* "prodigal" describes a person who has wandered off course. "Prodigals" (*noun form* first used in 1596) exist in all families to some degree, but not all are dealt with judiciously.

The father in this parable, however, accepts his younger, repentant son in the same merciful manner as our Heavenly Father receives penitent sinners. But the older son's resentment of his father's rejoicing reaction to the Prodigal's return introduces another element of family discord: sibling jealousy.

In the parable, the Lost Son was repentant, or remorseful, of his behavior. The key word is "repentant." Supposing the Prodigal is *not* repentant, what then? Let's take a closer look to see what wisdom Scripture has for us.

***Memory verse: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud."—1 Corinthians 13:4***

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

**OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. How did the father respond to: 1) his younger son's request for his inheritance; 2) his younger son's return; and 3) his older son's response? (Luke 15:11-32)
2. What did the younger son say to his father who welcomed him home with a hug and kiss? (Luke 15:21)
3. What did the older son say to his father in anger? (Luke 15:28-30)
4. What does love NOT do? (1 Corinthians 13:4-6)
5. Why do some individuals not have what they want? (James 4:2)





