

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FALL 2026 · WEEK 8

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE - LUKE 15:11–32

Often when we think of the prodigal son story, we think first of the younger son's greed, his squandering, the pigs, his ignominious return home. We might next think of the older brother, peeved that his selfish brother is receiving such a warm welcome.

This week, Pastor Bob puts the spotlight on the father who represents The Father. We may have thought of him as going too soft on a sinful child, but we'll see how Jesus's gospel tells that we are loved first, therefore we repent. Our love from the Father isn't dependent on our repentance first. As always, the parables turn what we *thought* we knew about life on its head.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Ice-breakers are designed to establish common ground, help you get to know other people, and share a little bit about your life.

1. In your opinion, what is the most confusing topic in the world?
2. What is the most extravagant item you've ever purchased or received?
3. Are you a surprise party kind of person? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER

These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into the sermon topic, relevant scriptures, and provide deeper opportunities for reflection.

4. The older brother feels more tolerated than celebrated. What makes it easy to understand his confusion at his father's decisions?

5. Since the father in this parable gives us a crystal-clear picture of who God is, what attributes do we see here?

6. Have you ever felt like the younger brother or like the older brother? How did you experience God's merciful response?

7. If you always saw the younger brother as the central figure of this parable, how did Pastor Bob's message help you see the father as the central figure?

8. Pastor Bob explained the difference between religion's message and the gospel's message. Have you spent time in both camps? Explain how you moved from one to the other or how you stay in one.

9. Describe the party you see God throwing for you, His beloved child.

APPLICATION

The goal is life transformation, not simple discussion. Application is how we live differently because of this week's teachings and discussions.

10. The word prodigal means "wastefully extravagant" or "Very generous" yet most of us define it as someone who left in shame and returned to bounty. Look for ways this week in you see the definition of prodigal played out in your life, where God has been abundantly generous in your spiritual life.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to record prayer requests here. Confidentiality is an important part of a healthy small group.