

It's important that God's Word continues after the message. At Celebrate, we find that you will talk over this week's message long after our experience is over. That's because God has lasting impact. The Sermon Discussion Guide is designed to help you continue the conversation all week.

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## The Prodigal's Father

Happy Easter! Praise be to God, who sent Jesus to earth to bear your sins and mine. Through His grace we have direct access to the Father. This week Keith shared the story of the Prodigal Son found in *Luke 15:11-24*. This story is not just about the son and how he messed things up, but about the love of the Father. Prodigal means extravagant, unrestrained, reckless. Although that describes the son, it better describes the attitude of the Father. When you read this parable, how does it relate to the issues you deal with today? Describe how you would react if your son or daughter acted the same way as the son in the parable.

*Luke 15:22; Galatians 5:22*

### Two Things about the Prodigal Father's Love:

#### 1. It's the Kind of Love that Does More than Just Watch and Wait.

“While he was a long way off, his father saw him... and ran.” The Father did not focus on the son's failures; He focused on His goodness. It's not how bad we are; it's about how good God is. It's not about what you've done but about what He did. Nothing you do can make God love you any more, and nothing you do can make God love you any less.

God's love does more than just watch and wait. Share with the group a time when you felt God's grace after you messed up. How does God's attitude affect the way you live your life today?

*Ephesians 2:8-9; Ecclesiastes 7:8; Colossians 3:15*

#### 2. It's a Love that Will Go Far Above and Beyond.

In the parable, the father instructed the servants to bring the finest robe for his son, and to get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. This is the kind of love Father God has for each of us. We cannot even fathom how deep His love goes. Have you ever thought about how God can continually forgive us and welcome us back even when we disobey Him and go our own way? How can we adopt that same attitude toward our brothers and sisters in Christ? What is blocking you from expressing the same love that God gives us?

*Luke 15:22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Psalm 37:3-4*

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## Make It Real

- Thank God for specific blessings in your life. Pick one blessing each day and thank Him for it throughout the day.
- Mend a broken or strained relationship, showing the same love that God shows you.