

Neighborhood Bible Study

Lesson One: Connecting with Our Father in Heaven

Scripture: Luke 11:1-4; 15:11-24

Suggested memory verse: “Love is patient, love is kind, ...love never fails.” (1 Corinthians 13:4,8)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Luke 11:1-4

- 1 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”
- 2 He said to them, “When you pray, say: ‘Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.
- 3 Give us each day our daily bread.
- 4 Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.’”

Luke 15:11-24

- 11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.
- 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.
- 13 Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.
- 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.
- 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.
- 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.
- 17 When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!
- 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
- 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’
- 20 So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.
- 21 The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’
- 22 But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.
- 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.
- 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”

Get-acquainted questions

1. Where were you born?
2. What place is home to you and why? Birthplace, family connection, longtime residence, etc.
3. Who is the primary father figure in your life? Dad, stepdad, big brother, mentor, etc.
4. What is your favorite memory of this person?
5. What quality do you most admire about him?

Inductive study questions

1. What was the question from one of the disciples?
How should we pray? Literally, “Teach us to pray” (11:1)
2. How did Jesus teach us to think of and address God in prayer? Father (11:2)
3. What did the younger son do with all that he received from his father? Squandered his wealth in wild living (15:3)
4. What kind of problems did he begin to experience? Began to be in need, hired himself out, longed to fill his stomach.
No one gave him anything (15:14-16)
5. What happened as he thought about his circumstances? He came to his senses (15:17)
6. What did he decide to do? Go back to his father (15:18)
7. What did he need to say? I have sinned against you (15:18)
8. What was the heart attitude of the father? Compassion (15:20)
9. What did the father do when his son was within reach? He ran to him, threw his arms around him and kissed him
10. What instructions did the father give after their initial reunion? Let’s celebrate! Details: robe, ring, calf, etc. (15:22,23)

Application questions and discussion

1. What has our Father in heaven given us that we some-times waste in living our own way?
Money, time, talents, abilities, relationships, opportunities, etc.
2. How is God like the father in this story when we are far away from him? *Looking for us to come to Him, compassionate*
3. What is He always ready to do? *Forgive us, celebrate, treat us as a son*
4. What do we need to do to experience this kind of relationship with Him? *Come to our senses, admit our need, go to Him, confess our sin*
5. What will you do? *Briefly present a simple plan of salvation explaining how our Father can forgive us because of Christ’s death for our sins. You might want to take your whole group through “God’s Answer to Eight Vital Questions about His Plan of Salvation” at the end of the booklet. Suggest a short prayer for those who have never ever received Christ and one for those coming back to Him from a time of wandering.*