The Prodigal God

2025 LENTEN STUDY READING SCHEDULE

Session 1: The Two Lost Sons March 9, 2025 **Book Reference:** Chapter 1: *The People Around Jesus* Chapter 2: The Two Lost Sons **Scripture:** Luke 15:1-3, 11-16 **Consider:** 1. How does Keller's interpretation of the parable challenge our usual understanding? 2. Why do both bothers see the father as a means to an end rather than someone to love? 3. In what ways do you see "younger brother" and "elder brother" tendencies in yourself?

St. Paul Church of Columbus Page 1 of 5

Session 2: Redefining Sin and Lostness

March 16, 2025

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Chapter 3: *Redefining Sin*Chapter 4: *Redefining Lostness*

Scripture:

Luke 15:17-24

Consider:

1. How does Jesus redefine sin in this parable?

2. Why is the elder brother's lostness harder to recognize?

3. How can religion become a way of avoiding dependence on God?

St. Paul Church of Columbus Page 2 of 5

Session 3: The Lavish Grace of the Father

March 23, 2025

Book Reference:

Chapter 2: The Two Lost Sons (Act 1: The Younger Brother)

Scripture:

Luke 15:20-24

Consider:

1. Why does the father's reaction surprise us?

2. How does this story challenge a "works-based" understanding of God's love?

3. What does it mean to live in the reality of God's grace rather than try to earn it?

St. Paul Church of Columbus Page 3 of 5

Session 4: The Elder Brother's Anger

March 30, 2025



Chapter 4: *Redefining Lostness*Chapter 5: *The True Elder Brother*

Scripture:

Luke 15:25-32

Consider:

1. Why is the elder brother's reaction so strong?

2. How does self-righteousness prevent us from experiencing joy in the Gospel?

3. Why does Jesus leave the story open-ended?

St. Paul Church of Columbus Page 4 of 5

Session 5: The True Elder Brother

April 6, 2025

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Chapter 5: *The True Elder Brother* Chapter 6: *Redefining Hope*

Scripture:

Luke 15:32 Hebrews 2:10-12

Consider:

1. How does Jesus fulfill the role of the "true elder brother"?

2. What does it mean that grace is both costly and free?

3. How does this parable shape the way we live in response to the gospel?

St. Paul Church of Columbus Page 5 of 5