

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 brothers 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?

Session 2: Redefining Sin and Lostness

March 16, 2025

Book Reference:

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?

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?

Session 4: The Elder Brother's Anger

March 30, 2025

Book Reference:

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?

