

Small group optional guide: Luke 15 The Father

## UP; we grow in our love for Jesus through His word and worship

WORD: Luke 15:11-32 The Parable of the Prodigal Son

We must know his heart towards us. He is not like your earthly father; he is better than the best father anyone has ever known: Know today that “God is for me!”

Jesus tells this parable: Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

- He tells these parables BECAUSE of their accusations

The compassionate and loving father.

- his son wishes he was dead and wants his inheritance now to live however he wishes
- when he had spent everything, he began to be in need, so he went and hired himself out to feed pigs
- when he came to himself he decided to return to his father, to live as a servant under him

“Repentance does not work if you continue in the same direction”

<sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.

- This is the heart of the Father
- He saw him because he was looking out for him!
- That is the same for you.

There is reconciliation AND restoration:

- He receives back his (shoes for his feet) honour and dignity, his (ring) authority

Word continued...

God does not want us to be in his house and not recognise that his presence, favour, blessing is ALWAYS with you.

Examples of the heart of the Father

- Forgiving, Merciful, Kind, gentle
- He is For you not against you
- Longing in his heart for the best for you

1 John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

WORSHIP songs: Good Good Father / Goodness of God

Heart of Worship / How deep the Father's love for us

Our Father

IN; we connect and learn to love one another

Chris Bryant – based on Romans 12, sense that God wanted to bring different gifts as part of the picture of bringing His Kingdom and that these gifts are for each person (not just some). These gifts are to bless us and to see His Kingdom breakout and that they were also about taking these gifts with us to different lands and spreading His Kingdom

He had a sense of butterflies (gifts) landing on people following a recent family visit to a butterfly sanctuary where butterflies landed on them as they walked along.

Dan then had a sense of acting out of this sense of the Kingdom coming down and these gifts that we should stop and pray for one another and see His Kingdom come amongst us – whether that be healing/breakthrough ETC. So led us to do this and had a few mins of prayer ministry for one another

# OUT: we look to pray, witness and serve

**You're  
invited  
to Alpha.**

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Starting Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April Tricia Goacher is leading our next alpha course in the Jubilee Community Café. The 10 week video based course will run for 1 hour, once a week, and include a Holy Spirit day, usually run on a Saturday.

- **Please invite anyone who may be interested in exploring the big questions of life**
- We have seen many saved and added across the last 11 courses that JCC have run
- There is still need for team so please consider joining Tricia
- A prayer support team covers you and the guests in prayer each week and you get to take part in the greatest adventure of all; seeing people encounter the love of God.
- Guests can sign up through our website calendar/featured events

If you are interested please contact Matt Hoyes ([matt@jcceg.co.uk](mailto:matt@jcceg.co.uk)) with any questions or ideas.

## May Fayre 6<sup>th</sup> May: please join us and help for 1 hour

The 1<sup>st</sup> May bank holiday we have 2 stalls that will promote and sign post all the different charities and support resources at the Jubilee Community Centre

Set up team: 730am – 830am; meet at JCC, take all equipment to the high street, setting up the gazebos and displays

Jubilee Community Centre team: will take 1 hour slots to share with people who come to the stall all the different charities and support groups that meet at JCC

Jubilee Community Church team: will take 1 hour slots offering prayer and conversation with anyone needing hope, healing or who have questions about our faith

If you are interested please contact Matt ([matt@jcceg.co.uk](mailto:matt@jcceg.co.uk)) with any questions or ideas.