

Wednesday Night Teen Small Group: Teacher Guide
Security of the Saved #6
Discussion Guide

THERE WILL BE NO SINGING TONIGHT AS WE WENT TO THE DEVOTIONAL

Prayer

- Prayer Requests?
- Pray together.

Lesson

1. **REVIEW:** What are some things you've learned about in these few weeks about salvation and grace?
 - a. Answers may include...
 - i. salvation is deliverance from sin and its consequences
 - ii. We are saved by grace and can do nothing to earn it.
 - iii. Grace is God's unearned and undeserved kindness.
 - iv. Grace is when God gives us something we don't deserve.
2. **REVIEW:** Why is salvation important?
 - a. Answers may include: It allows us to focus on doing good for others to help them learn about God instead of us always worrying about doing good things so we can get to heaven.
 - i. In other words, we are working to help others instead of working for ourselves to get to heaven.
3. **REVIEW:** What 4 ways does God forgive?
 - a. Completely, Repeatedly, Instantly, and Freely
4. **REVIEW:** We learned about heaven last week. What are some things we learned about it?
 - a. **Answers may include:** Heaven is a place of rewards, reunion, and righteousness.
5. **SAY:** Tonight, Aaron talked about fresh starts and new beginnings. What stood out to you in his devotional?
6. **SAY:** Tonight, we are going to discuss a young man from a parable who had a fresh start and wonderful salvation and forgiveness.
7. **READ:** Luke 15: 11-32
 - a. This posted scripture is from the Message version of the Bible. The reason we are reading it from here tonight (NEXT PAGE) than from another version is because it has put this scripture in clear and concise wording so the students can really soak it up. As group leader, you may choose to read another translation. That is up to you.

The Story of the Lost Son

¹¹⁻¹² Then he said, “There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, ‘Father, I want right now what’s coming to me.’

¹²⁻¹⁶ “So the father divided the property between them. It wasn’t long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corncobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any.

¹⁷⁻²⁰ “That brought him to his senses. He said, ‘All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I’m going back to my father. I’ll say to him, Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.’ He got right up and went home to his father.

²⁰⁻²¹ “When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced him, and kissed him. The son started his speech: ‘Father, I’ve sinned against God, I’ve sinned before you; I don’t deserve to be called your son ever again.’

²²⁻²⁴ “But the father wasn’t listening. He was calling to the servants, ‘Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We’re going to feast! We’re going to have a wonderful time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!’ And they began to have a wonderful time.

²⁵⁻²⁷ “All this time his older son was out in the field. When the day’s work was done he came in. As he approached the house, he heard the music and dancing. Calling over one of the houseboys, he asked what was going on. He told him, ‘Your brother came home. Your father has ordered a feast—barbecued beef!—because he has him home safe and sound.’

²⁸⁻³⁰ “The older brother stalked off in an angry sulk and refused to join in. His father came out and tried to talk to him, but he wouldn’t listen. The son said, ‘Look how many years I’ve stayed here serving you, never giving you one moment of grief, but have you ever thrown a party for me and my friends? Then this son of yours who has thrown away your money on prostitutes shows up and you go all out with a feast!’

³¹⁻³² “His father said, ‘Son, you don’t understand. You’re with me all the time, and everything that is mine is yours—but this is a wonderful time, and we had to celebrate. This brother of yours was dead, and he’s alive! He was lost, and he’s found!’”

8. **SAY:** We can learn a lot from the three characters in this scripture.
9. **ASK:** Who are these three characters and tell me a little bit about each.
 - a. Prodigal/Lost Son: He left, sinned, and came home.
 - b. Father: Loved the son enough to let him leave and accepted him when he came home.
 - c. Older Son: Didn't leave but sinned by not forgiving his brother. Self-righteous.

PRODIGAL SON

10. **ASK:** Have you ever felt like the young/prodigal son?
11. **ASK:** Have you ever sinned so bad that you felt as if God could never forgive you?
12. **ASK:** Why is it that we feel this way?
13. **ASK:** What can we do to remind ourselves that God still loves us and is still waiting for us to "come home?"
14. **ASK:** What lesson can we learn from the lost/prodigal son?
 - a. **Answers may include:** The life we fantasize or envision about will not always work out like we plan. The son thought his life of "sin" would be fun and great, but he was miserable the entire time.
15. **SAY:** It's important to realize that the son sinned, but the bad stuff didn't come to him because God was punishing him. The bad stuff occurred in his life because of his actions.

THE FORGIVING FATHER

16. **ASK:** Have you ever had an instance in your life when you were in the situation of the father when someone done something bad to you and you had the option to forgive them?
17. **ASK:** Where you nice to that person and welcomed them with loving arms or were you resentful and mean to them?
18. **ASK:** As a Christian, how should you act?
19. **ASK:** Why is it so hard to do so?
20. **ASK:** When you are in that situation, what are some things you can do to help you forgive someone?
21. **SAY:** With the father, there was no condemnation. No guilt-trips. No waving of the finger while saying, "I told you so." Nothing but love, pure and unconditional.
 - a. In 1 John 4:8, we read : God is love.
22. **ASK:** Who do you think is represented as the father in this story?
 - a. Answers may include: God is the father in this story.
23. **ASK:** What did the father do at the end of this story to the prodigal son.
 - a. **Answer may include:** He welcomed him home, he forgave him, he loved him, he celebrated his return with a party.
24. **ASK:** If the father represents God, then how does God act when we come to him for forgiveness of our sin even when we feel unworthy of his forgiveness like the son in the story did?
25. **SAY:** The love of the father in this parable points to the amazing grace and endless love of our great and mighty God.

THE JEALOUS OLDER BROTHER

26. **ASK:** What happened to the older brother in this story? How did he feel about the son coming home and party the dad threw for him?

- a. The Older Brother had No love. No compassion. No thanksgiving. Just anger and selfishness.
27. **ASK:** Have you ever been in the position as the older brother? Someone has sinned and you judge them rather than forgive them and you feel like they don't deserve that forgiveness?
28. **SAY:** We become like the older brother when pride is in our life rather than gratitude and grace. Each one of us is prone to behaving in a similar way toward those who have strayed from the path and then returned home. If we are not careful, we will respond much more like the older brother and much less like the father.

CLOSE

29. **ASK:** Who were the three characters in this story?
30. **ASK:** What lesson(s) can we learn from the Prodigal son?
- a. If I am running from God, then I can learn much from the prodigal son.
31. **ASK:** What lesson(s) can we learn from the Older Son?
- a. If I feel like I am not getting my fair share and that a "big sinner" is being shown too much mercy, I can learn a lot by studying the angry response of the older brother.
32. **ASK:** What lesson(s) can we learn from the Father?
- a. If someone needs my forgiveness and acceptance, I can learn much from the father.
33. **SAY:** Think about this...Which one of these three characters best describes your life today? Are you chasing sinful fantasies? Are you being self-righteous and being too hard and judging others?
REMEMBER: It's not just a matter of coming home. It's a matter of loving each one of those who are in the home, whether we feel like they deserve it or not.
34. **SAY:** The fact of the matter is that you and I do not deserve God's grace and mercy. And yet that is exactly what we have been given through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It's only when we immerse ourselves in the immensity of God's ultimate sacrifice that we begin to experience the compassion and the wisdom of the father in this parable.

Closing Prayer

WE WILL NOT BE MEETING BACK FOR SONGS BECAUSE OF THE DEVOTIONAL