

**THE SHEEP /  
THE COIN &  
THE SONS**

**Seeing God's Love  
For Lost People**

...

**Week #3: The Prodigal Son**





## **PLAY TOGETHER**

Play a game together.



## **PRAY TOGETHER**

Spend time praising and thanking God in prayer.



## **GROW TOGETHER**

Learn from Scripture about who God says He is and how we should respond to Him.

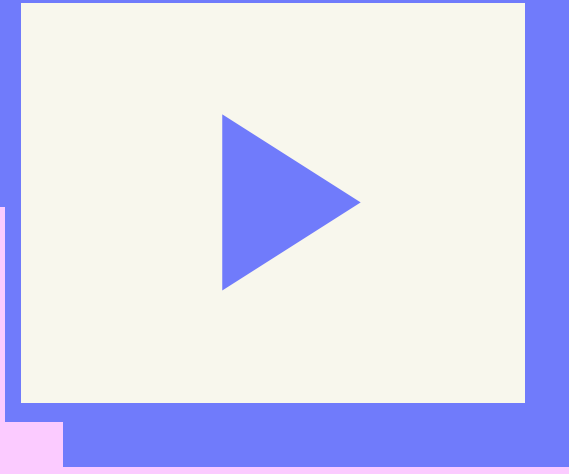


## **GO TOGETHER**

Look for opportunities to share the Gospel, and serve others in your community with your YCI club members.

# **CONTENTS**

## **How To Lead Your YCI Club**



# Something's Changed

First, one person should be chosen as the "finder", and they should proceed to exit the room. Next, everyone else in the YCI club has one minute to change one thing about the room or their appearance (draw something on a white board, turn a chair around, put on your jacket, etc.). After the minute is over, the finder should re-enter the room, and they have two minutes to identify as many of the changes as possible. This can be played in multiple rounds with different "finders" being chosen each time. At the end of the "Play" portion of club, the finder that identified the most changes is the winner of the game!



# ASK GOD FOR HIS WILL TO BE DONE IN THESE AREAS:



## **Club Time**

Pray that God will speak to everyone in the room through His Word.



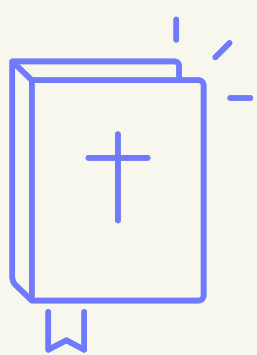
## **Group Needs**

Take time to discuss and pray over the personal needs and requests of those in attendance.



## **School Community**

Ask God to move in situations that are unique to your school and community.



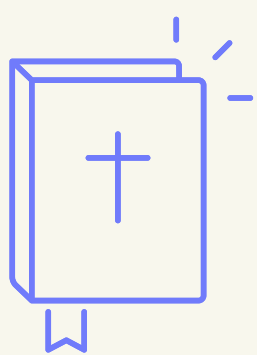
Read

## LUKE 15:11-18 (ESV)



**11** And he said, “There was a man who had two sons. **12** And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. **13** Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. **14** And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16** And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. **17** “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.”’





Read

## LUKE 15:19-24 (ESV)

●●●

“**19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”” **20** 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. **21** And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22** But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23** And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24** For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.”





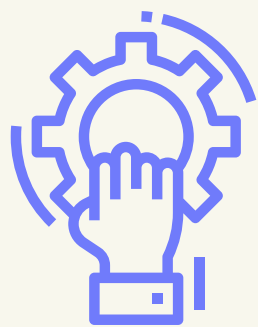
## WHAT MAKES THIS STORY SO RADICAL?



In Luke 15, the sheep wandered away from the flock due to ignorance (how could you expect a sheep to know better?). The loss of the coin, of course, was not the fault of the coin. However, when we consider the story of the Prodigal Son, it's difficult to deny that his awful situation was entirely his fault.

He wasn't lost due to ignorance or the irresponsibility of someone else. No, he believed he knew better than his father, and he obtained his inheritance before he was ready and wasted it all on sinful living. This was an unforgivable offense, especially in this ancient culture where extra honor was placed on the father. To take it a step further, the father (who was supposed to maintain a dignified appearance), unashamedly embraced his son upon his return. When we take a step back and consider Jesus' life, death and resurrection, it too seems illogical (and even radical). However, it points to the incredible love that God has for His imperfect children.





Apply

WHAT DOES THE  
PRODIGAL SON  
TEACH US ABOUT  
GOD'S GRACE?



### It's Undeserved By Design

The word "grace" literally means *unmerited favor*. In other words, when God gives us grace, He is giving us what we *do not deserve*. The Prodigal Son did not deserve to be forgiven by his father, and that's the point. Even though we did not deserve it, Jesus laid down His life for us so that we could have relationship with God.

### No Situation Is Too Severe

Before the son came to his senses, the Bible indicates he was so hungry that he wanted to eat pig food (Luke 15:16). He was broke, friendless and starving. Even though it seemed like all was lost, he was in the perfect position to experience the radical love of his father. The same is true for us. There is no amount of sin, shame and shortcomings that can separate us from the love of our heavenly Father.

### Our Position Is Permanent

Even though he left the house, the young man's status as "son" never changed. In the same way, once we are brought from death to life through belief in Jesus, there is nothing that can separate us from being a member of His family.







## LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS

(SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS  
IF TIME ALLOWS)



1. Is there a particular moment in the story of the Prodigal Son that "jumped out" to you? Share what the moment is, and explain why it is significant to you.



2. Can you think of a moment in your life when you acted like the Prodigal Son? What was that experience like, and what opened your eyes to your disobedience?



3. As a YCI club, what are some practical things we can do to communicate the grace of God to the "prodigal sons and daughters" in our school?



## CONSIDER THIS BEFORE YOU LEAVE:



### Big Idea

The story of the Prodigal Son is a radical display of God's love. It shows us that God's grace, by definition, is undeserved. No situation is too severe for His love to penetrate, and there is nothing that can remove us from His family.



### Sharing Truth

Who is someone in your life that needs to hear about what we discussed today? Pray for them, and find time this week to encourage them.



### Meeting Needs

What is something your YCI club can do to show God's love this semester?

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