

# God isn't mad at me

*God will go all out to show how much He loves us*

## Small Group Notes

**Luke 15:11-32** (niv)

### ...Introduction

This passage of Scripture in **Luke 15** is commonly known as **“the parable of the prodigal son.”** In it, Jesus reaches the climax in His response to the charge put against Him by the Pharisees and the Scribes (*the religious leaders*) with their accusations that *“this man (Jesus) welcomes sinners and eats with them”* (**Luke 15:2**). It was an offence to the Scribes and Pharisees that Jesus would associate with such *“dishonourable people.”*

While it is commonly called **“The Prodigal Son”** it can rightfully be called the parable of **“The Loving Father.”** It reveals more about the love and acceptance of the father than of the wrongdoings and foolishness of the younger son.

### ... Understanding the Parable

#### 1. The Sons Departure

Luke 15:11-13a

#### 2. The Sons Life abroad

Luke 15:13b-19

#### 3. The Sons Return Home

Luke 15:20-24

#### 4. The Son is Rejected by his Brother

Luke 15:25-32

#### 5. The Fathers Response

Luke 15:25-32

### ... Applying the Parable

#### 1. Who do the Main Characters Represent?

- The father represents our heavenly Father (*God*).

- The prodigal son coming home represents the sinner.
- The elder brother reflected the attitude of the self-righteous Pharisees and scribes - see **Luke 15:2**

## 2. What are the Key Lessons to be Learnt from this Parable?

- Our heavenly Father loves His children.
- The faithful children of God need to understand the proper way to receive the erring child who returns back to God.

May you be moved to repentance by this parable and may you never forget that your heavenly Father anxiously awaits your reconciliation with Him!

**2 Corinthians 5:20** (niv) *We are therefore, Christ ambassador, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.*

### ... Discussion

- Discuss as a group each attitude the three characters had shown in the parable and how those attitudes can impact those who have them and those closest to them.
- Do you identify with any of the attitudes shown by either of the characters in this parable. If so, how did they affect you and those close to you?
- Why is so hard to forgive? Why is it so hard to forgive ourselves? How can we move on from offences caused against us? People say that you can forgive and forget – is that true?
- How can we remember the things that people have done to us that has caused offence and hurt but be able to remember the offence without the sting of pain?

***(Break up in pairs and discuss the following questions and try to be as open as you can. It may be good to pray for one another.)***

- Discuss with your partner how different your natural father is to your heavenly Father. How does your natural father replica Father God in character. And how is he different to Father God.
- How do you view God? Is He a disciplinarian? Is He a loving Father? A distant Father? etc Describe how you view God in a word and why.