

**Miracle Of Mercy: 5 of 8**  
**Finding My Way Back Home**  
**Cornerstone Church of Poway**  
**Pastor Ed Turley**  
**May 19, 2019**

**Big Idea:** To Value God's Mercy, I Must Understand The Cost Of The Cross

"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." **Isaiah 53:6 (NIV)**

**To Find My Way Back Home And Experience God's Mercy:**

**1. I Must Realize God Will Allow Me To \_\_\_\_\_**

Although God wants me to be close - God doesn't force me to be close.

To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he **wasted** all his money in **wild living**. **Luke 15:11-13 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. I Must Turn Away \_\_\_\_\_**

About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. "When he finally **came to his senses**, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! **Luke 15:14-17 (NLT2)**

**I will go home to my father** and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant." **Luke 15:18-19 (NLT2)**

"Now **repent** of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away. Then **times of refreshment** will come from the presence of the Lord, and He will again send you Jesus, your appointed Messiah." **Acts 3:19-20 (NLT2)**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. I Must Trust God Will \_\_\_\_\_

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

**Luke 15:20-21 (NLT2)**

“But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

**Luke 15:22-24 (NLT2)**

- **Jesus Understands My \_\_\_\_\_**

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may **receive mercy** and **find grace** to help us in our time of need.”

**Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV)**

- **My Salvation Isn't Based On \_\_\_\_\_**

“He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.” **Titus 3:5-7 (NIV)**

- **Jesus Has Already Taken \_\_\_\_\_**

“God made you **alive** with Christ, for **He forgave all our sins**. He **canceled** the record of the charges against us and took it away by **nailing** it to the cross.”

**Colossians 2:13b-14 (NLT2) Remember Verse**

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

➤ **How will I respond to God's Mercy?**

**My next right step, I will receive God's Mercy by:**

[ ] Accepting Jesus as my personal Savior

[ ] Recommitting my life to follow Jesus

**The Miracle Of Mercy: 5 of 8**  
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[This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.]

**Big Idea:** To Value God’s Mercy, I Must Understand The Cost Of The Cross

**Open your group with a prayer.**

**Icebreaker:**

How old were you when you left home? Where did you go? What did you do?

**Read and discuss Life Application Study Bible Commentary:**

*Jesus Tells the Parable of the Lost Son / 15:11-32* The previous two parables—the one of lost sheep and the lost coin—build up to the climax, the parable of the lost son, a parable that is unique to Luke. Through the parable of the lost son, Jesus presents a vivid illustration of God and his mercy for repentant sinners. 15:11-12 Jesus continued with another parable **to illustrate the point further** that God rejoices when lost sinners repent and find forgiveness. **A man had two sons**, the younger of whom wanted his share of his father’s **estate** (inheritance). This would have been one-third of the total estate, with the older son receiving two-thirds, a double portion of the other as prescribed by the law (Deuteronomy 21:17). In most cases, the son would have received this at his father’s death, although fathers sometimes chose to divide up their inheritance early and retire from managing their estates. What is unusual is that the younger son initiated the division of the estate. This showed arrogant disregard for his father’s authority as head of the family.

**To Find My Way Back Home And Experience God’s Mercy:**

**1. I Must Realize God Will Allow Me To Make My Own Choices**

**Read Luke 15:11-13**

If you had been the father, would you have given him his inheritance early?

Why doesn’t the Father force His son to stay and obey?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. I Must Turn Away From My Sin And Turn Back To God**

**Read Luke 15:14-19**

If you were the father, would you have gone to look for your son in the “far country”?

What causes the son to come to his senses?

What has caused you to come to your senses?

**Acts 3:19-20**

What should we do?

What does God promise to do for us?

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. I Must Trust God Will Receive Me With Open Arms**

**Read Luke 15:20-21**

In your pilgrimage, what do you identify as your “far country”?

Describe how the father responds?

Is this how you understand God’s response to you? Why or why not?

**Read Luke 15:22-24**

Describe how the father treats his son.

Is this how you see God’s treatment of you? Why or why not?

**Read Hebrews 4:15-16**

What is God’s promise to us?

**Read Titus 3:5-7 & 1John 2:2**

What is my salvation based on?

**Read Colossians 2:13-14 (NLT2) Remember Verse**

What did Jesus do for us?

**Close in Prayer:** Start praying. Be bold and pray specifically.

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Snack schedule: \_\_\_\_\_