

QUESTIONS FOR *THE PRODIGAL GOD* BY TIM KELLER

CORE VALUE: COMMUNITY OF GRACE

Goal: As we seek to embody our core values as a church, this book study is designed to help us grow in our understanding of, love for, and intentionality with the gospel of grace that has made us a community that follows Jesus.

Week One Questions

Questions will be given each week and placed online

Begin each week praying that God would grant us a fresh understanding of the gospel and that you and your group would be enlightened and helped by the parable. Pray the goal for your heart.

- 1. In the Intro and chapter one did you read anything that was new to you or had an effect on you?**
- 2. "The targets of this story are not "wayward sinners" but religious people who do everything the Bible requires. Jesus is pleading not so much with immoral outsiders as with moral insiders." (*Prodigal God* p10.) Can you think of other incidents from Jesus' life where he comes into conflict with the Pharisees and the teachers of the law? Why do you think they were opposed to Jesus and his teaching? Why do you think Jesus addresses them with this story (page 10 helps answer the question)**
- 3. Who do you identify with more? The younger or the older brother and why? (refer to the sermon- see the "Take It Home" online- OR the Intro. and chp 1.)**
- 4. How were you or are you pursuing death by rebellion, ie. the example of the younger brother? Idolatry, loving the Father's things more than the Father, etc.**
- 5. How were you or are you pursuing death religion, ie the younger brother when he returns to the Father and the older brother? Feeling you're your never do enough, focusing on your sin more than the work of the Savior, focusing on don'ts more than on the Christ we pursue,**
- 6. What are some of the effects death by religion? Share some examples. The need to be superior, insecurity because you aren't sure if you have been good enough which many times results in anxiety or anger, etc.**

- 7. Refer to the story and highlight all the aspects of love shown by the Father to his sinful sons. Share other Scriptures that bring to mind God’s pursuit of, love for, and faithfulness for his people.**

Schedule

<u>Date*</u>	<u>Chapters to Discuss</u>	<u>**</u>
April 7 (or Week 1)	Intro and Chapter one p. xi-16	
April 14 (or Week 2)	Chapter 2-3 p. 17-47	
April 21 (or Week 3)	Chapter 4-5 p. 48-89	
April 28 (or Week 4)	Sermon review and application Leaders to Invest- Care (aka. comm group leaders care group)	
May 5 (or Week 5)	Chapter 6-7 p. 90-133	

***These dates apply if your group is able to start this week. Please check with your group leader since some of the groups will not start until April 14 due to the move.**

****The recommendation is for people to have read the chapters listed next to the date before coming to community group.**