

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 Two Questions

Questions will be given each week and placed online

Opening Question:

1. If you asked the average person on the street to define the word sin, what would they say? How does Jesus challenge this definition in the parable.

Summary:

Here is the radical redefinition of what is wrong with us (sin). Sin is not just breaking the rules it is putting yourself in the place of God as Savior, Lord, and Judge just as each son sought to displace the authority of the father in his own life. P43

There are two ways to be your own Savior and Lord. One is by breaking all the moral laws and setting your own course, and one is by keeping all the moral laws and being very, very, very good. P44

The gospel is distinct to these approaches. Because in it's view everyone is wrong, everyone is loved, and everyone is called to recognize this and change. P 45

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. May the Spirit of God strike us fresh and anew over our sin and His amazing grace and love.

- 1. How does seeing the younger son's request for his inheritance early as "dishonoring" the Father and as a "rejection of his love" move you to obedience and love? How are you rejecting his love when you sin? How are you dishonoring him when you sin? (p20).**

2. From Tim Keller's discussion guide# he states, "There is no evil that the father's love cannot pardon and cover, there is no sin that is a match for his grace." (*The Prodigal God*, p24). How can this be seen in the parable, in other Bible stories, or in your own experience?
3. How does the picture of God's lavish love for the younger son when he returns (ie his open emotions of kissing him, his running to him, his clothing him with a robe which indicates his reentry into the family, his killing the fatten calf, etc.) strike your heart? How does it effect your obedience and love for others?
4. The younger brother believes he is no longer worthy to be called his father's son. What does that tell us about his view of what it takes to be loved and accepted? Is this view prevalent today?#
5. If God's grace is absolutely free and we cannot earn it or merit it in any way, what motivation is there to live an obedient life? #
6. "You can rebel against God and be alienated from him either by breaking his rules or by keeping all of them diligently." # p 36-37; Explain this statement using examples if possible. p37-39
7. How do people attempt to control God through their obedience? #

All Questions with the number sign have come from Keller's Discussion guide on his DVD series regarding the book, The Prodigal God.

Schedule

Date*	Chapters to Discuss	**
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.**