

**Catechism Lesson for Adults and Teens**  
**Sunday of the Prodigal Son**

**The Prodigal Son**

Read the Gospel Passage for this Sunday  
Luke 15:11-32

**Contextual Background:**

-The Parable of the Prodigal Son is one of the most important Parables. It shows us that no matter what mistakes we make, God is always willing to receive us back. All we need to do is humble ourselves, move back and turn back to Him, and ask for forgiveness.

-Lent is full of “penitential” language, which means asking for forgiveness and seeking to “repent” from things that get in the way of our relationship with God

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why do you think the younger son decided to leave home?
  - a. To try to make it on his own
  - b. To experience the “fast lane”
  - c. To be free of his father’s values
  - d. To get away from his older brother
  
2. What made the son come home?
  - a. He got homesick
  - b. He got hungry
  - c. He felt sorry for his father
  - d. He felt sorry for himself
  - e. He felt guilty for what he had done
  
3. If you were the father, what would have been your attitude when your son returned?
  - a. Good to see you—but you’re grounded!
  - b. You have disgraced this family!
  - c. Where’s the money you took?
  - d. I don’t approve of what you’ve done, but you’re still my son
  - e. Welcome home, son—I love you
  - f. Whoops! We all goof once in a while, right?

4. Each character in the parable had their own struggle. In what times have you felt like each character and which of the character's struggles do you identify with the most?
  - a. The father's "need for control" and letting his son go and live recklessly
  - b. The younger son's need to feel free
  - c. The younger son's love for wealth & pleasure
  - d. The older son's jealousy
  
5. When I have done something wrong or something that offends/disappoints someone else or God, I tend to...
  - a. Try not to think about it or focus on something else
  - b. Hide from or conceal my mistake as best I can
  - c. Feel like a failure
  - d. Get angry for feeling judged
  - e. Redirect blame—it's not always my fault
  - f. Own up to the mistake
  - g. Make amends or try to please the person I offended
  - h. Ask for forgiveness
  - i. Other answers?
  
6. The younger son took his inheritance from his father and left him in pursuit of "wild living".
  - a. Are there times you feel you run away from God or forget about Him?
  - b. What distractions or kinds of "wild living" do you do that gets in the way of connecting with God?
  - c. What are some things that remind you to reconnect and return to God?
  
7. What do you think God is inviting YOU to do when you hear this parable?