

Hope for Hurting Families

Family Matters! Week 3

Feb. 13 & 14, 2010

Luke 15:11-24

Stage I: The Hopeless Feelings of a Hurting Family

Luke 15:11-3

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living."

Stage II: The Desperation & Readiness Phase

(Verses 16-20) "He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father."

• Desperation _____ Readiness _____

5 Keys that Help Heal Family Hurts

- Key #1 U _____ 1 Peter 3.7
- Key #2 K _____ Ecclesiastes 5.4-5
- Key #3 G _____ Romans 12.10
- Key #4 F _____ Philippians 4:8

Stage III: The Reconciliation Phase

- Key #5 A _____ & O _____ Colossians 3.13

(verse 20) "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. We've probably heard the story of the 'prodigal son' a hundred times (Luke 15.11ff). What impresses you about this parable? How does it speak to you? How does this parable challenge you?
2. Discuss this statements:

"There are some life-lessons only learned through pain".

"Sometimes change never happens until we get desperate; yet desperation alone isn't readiness to change".
3. Read Luke 15:18 -19. Explain why it is a challenge to receive God's forgiveness. What keeps us clinging to sins?
4. Some have called Jesus' story "The Parable of the Lost Sons" (cf. Luke 15:28-30)? List and discuss reasons why the elder son was lost in resentment.
5. How do you think knowing that God is like the father in Luke 15:11-32 should affect the way a Christian treats God, himself, and others?
6. Of the 5 common ways we can help heal family hurts, which one(s) do you sense a need to 'lean into'?