

# truth + grace

a bible study by tiffany grayson

## chapter three - forgiven

*"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him."*

(Philippians 2:13, NLT)

Our Heavenly Father \_\_\_\_\_ us. He is always with us.

Deuteronomy 31:6 says, *"Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, for the Lord your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."*

Let's journey back in time to the book of \_\_\_\_\_. A little background:

- It was written by a man named \_\_\_\_\_.
- He was a native of \_\_\_\_\_, and was not \_\_\_\_\_; he was of \_\_\_\_\_ descent.
- Prior to his travels with the \_\_\_\_\_, he was a \_\_\_\_\_.
- He wrote the book for his people, those with a \_\_\_\_\_ heritage.
- The book stretches over a \_\_\_\_\_-year time span, and includes the most detailed account of Jesus' life on earth.
- Though there is no account of him meeting Jesus, he portrayed Him as a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Although all of the Gospels contain various accounts of Jesus' life, they also contain a selection of the \_\_\_\_\_ He used while teaching.

The one we will discuss in this chapter is only found in the book of Luke. Turn to Luke 15:11-24, where we will study the parable of the \_\_\_\_\_.

As we dig in, let's set the stage by answering these two questions:

1. What is \_\_\_\_\_?
2. What is \_\_\_\_\_?

A \_\_\_\_\_ is a simple \_\_\_\_\_ with a profound \_\_\_\_\_. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ told through everyday relatable stories, commonplace happenings, objects, and/or people.

The word \_\_\_\_\_ comes from the Greek word "parabole":

- "Para means \_\_\_\_\_
- "Ballo" means \_\_\_\_\_

Thus, the word "parable" means \_\_\_\_\_ and suggests a \_\_\_\_\_ between two things that are alike in some way.

Notes on this:

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Parables teach \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus taught in parables for two reasons:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Notes on this:

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Even today, Jesus' parables are \_\_\_\_\_. His stories, meant to be relatable in HIS day, are \_\_\_\_\_ today.

Back to our second question: What is a prodigal son?

The definition of the word "prodigal" is \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>10</sup>

The parable of the prodigal son is the longest and most detailed parable, containing \_\_\_\_\_ within the full story.

To begin, we read of a greedy \_\_\_\_\_, anxious to get his hands on his \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes on this:

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/prodigal>

He was forced to \_\_\_\_\_... as a \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes on this:

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Recognizing the sin in his life, this son knew he needed to \_\_\_\_\_.

He knew he needed to \_\_\_\_\_ for his actions and seek \_\_\_\_\_

for all he had done wrong. He realized that he had sinned against his father and

“against heaven” (v.18,21).

So what happened? \_\_\_\_\_

Notes on this:

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This is a parable, a relatable story designed to share a \_\_\_\_\_.

Can you relate to it on any level?

Notes on this:

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And did you notice? The son did not get to \_\_\_\_\_.

Each of the father's gifts was significant, a sign of \_\_\_\_\_:

- Robe: \_\_\_\_\_
- Ring: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sandals: \_\_\_\_\_
- Fattened Calf: \_\_\_\_\_

They celebrated. Just as God celebrates with you each time you \_\_\_\_\_.

The remainder of this story is equally as important to understand. Read Luke 15:25-31.

Notes on this:

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The older son couldn't even bring himself to call the prodigal son \_\_\_\_\_...  
he called him "*this son of* \_\_\_\_\_" (v.30)... an expression that exposes the  
deep \_\_\_\_\_ that he was feeling in that moment.

Notes on this:

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Have we ever been that stubbornly blinded?

Just as the firstborn son was stuck in his cycle of \_\_\_\_\_,

so were the Pharisees who sought to punish Jesus.

Who were the Pharisees?

They were a large group of \_\_\_\_\_ who were very strict in their observance of religious \_\_\_\_\_, written \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes on this:

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Are we more like the Pharisees that we want to acknowledge?

Notes on this:

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Are WE the firstborn son?

Notes on this:

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So what was the father's response to him? Everything he had \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes on this:

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What about you, friend?

This is a parable with two lessons:

- One, no matter how much muck you find yourself in, you can always come \_\_\_\_\_ to God where He will welcome you with open arms, \_\_\_\_\_ your sins, and fully \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- Two, sometimes we have to let go of our own self-righteousness in order to see the \_\_\_\_\_ in our own life. \_\_\_\_\_ and clearing the path to God is necessary in order to truly \_\_\_\_\_ all of the treasures that God has in store for you.

What work is God doing in your heart today?

NOTE:

- For daily encouragement through Scripture, please follow “truth\_plus\_grace” on Instagram or “Truth + grace” on Facebook.
- We are looking for ways to connect as a community of people going through this study together. Please check your email for more information, or to be added to the email distribution list, please email [tiffany@truthplusgrace.com](mailto:tiffany@truthplusgrace.com).