



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Study to show "The Way of True life," Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: **Why Spread the Good News?**
TEXT: ***Luke 15:1-2 and Verses 11-32***

Instructions: *Instructions: - Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Have you ever felt uneasy about evangelizing because you didn't want to treat people as mere evangelistic projects? Or perhaps you suspect that witnessing may be a form of manipulation or a civilized method of scalp hunting. In the Parable of the Two Sons Jesus describes the proper motive for spreading the good news.

1. What are some of the reasons people have for sharing the gospel?
2. Read Luke 15:1-2, 11-32. Why did Jesus feel the need to tell this story?
3. Why would this Jewish crowd be indignant that the younger son pushed for his share of the inheritance (w. 11-12)?
4. In the Jewish culture of Jesus' day, children were not only raised to obey the law but to stay close as a family unit. How would the Pharisees react on hearing the further antics of this son (v. 13)?
5. How would the boy's job be the worst imaginable occupation for a child who was probably raised in a kosher kitchen (w. 14-15)?
6. How does Jesus make his audience even more disgusted in verse 16?
7. What types of people are you so repelled by that you find it difficult to reach out to them with the gospel? Explain.
8. After hearing a story in which Jesus deliberately pressed all their buttons, what might the Pharisees and teachers of the law expect the father's response to be?
9. Jesus gives us one of the most beautiful portraits of God the Father seen in Scripture. Name everything that the father does (w. 20-24).
10. Jesus' point is that we are so precious to God, and he is so loving by nature that the mere act of repentance makes him want to throw a party. How does this square with your understanding of God's attitude toward you?
11. How can fully appreciating God's love for us motivate us to reach others who have turned away from God?
12. The older son was so angry that he refused to go to the party (v 25-30). How were the Pharisees and teachers of the law like him?

13. We see two different kinds of hard hearts in this story. The first is the flagrantly immoral sinner who lives life with reckless abandon and yet who discovers more quickly his desperate need of his father. Following Jesus' examples, how can we develop friendships with people like the younger son?

14. The second type of sinner is the self-satisfied, self-righteous person who tries to live morally and who no doubt thinks: "God will accept me because basically I'm good." How can we reach this type of person?