

There's No Place Like Home – Bible Study Lesson

Luke 15:11-17 (NLT)

11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons.

12 The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

13 “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.

14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve.

15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs.

16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

17 “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger!

One day Jesus was talking to the Pharisees. They were upset that he spent time eating and talking to sinners and tax collectors. So, He told them a story. It talked about a son, who was tired of living under the authority of his father. He knew of his future rights to his father's resources. He asked the father for the portion that would fall to him. And the father agreed. Thus, he got far enough away to do things his way. He exhausted his resources and found himself doing things he never thought he would. Then, the Bible says, **“He finally came to his senses”** and said to himself, **“It's not like this at my father's house.”** With this in mind, let's examine: **There's No Place Like Home.**

Psalm 133:1 (NASB)

1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers to live together in unity!

Home is a place like no other. Everyone needs to catch their breath sometimes. The Christmas holiday presents an opportunity for families to strengthen their bonds. Being physically and emotionally present with your loved ones allows for quality time spent together, creating cherished memories and strengthening the family connection.

1. At home, we can learn to regain our strength through unity.

Ephesians 6:2-3 (NASB)

2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise),

3 so that it may turn out well for you, and that you may live long on the earth.

We qualify for our next season, by what we do in our current season. The Bible is full of the promises of God. The first commandment that triggers one of these promises is to honor our fathers and mothers. Time spent together presents an opportunity to practice honoring each other. **You can honor your family in their absence when you learn to honor them in their presence.**

2. At home, we can learn to honor and prepare for our next season.

John 4:20 (NASB)

20 If someone says, "I love God," and yet he hates his brother or sister, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother and sister whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen.

Being present physically and emotionally allows for meaningful conversations, shared experiences, and fosters a sense of closeness. There are often challenges. Every family has difficult relatives. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS, IT'S PROBABLY YOU!!** One of the most valuable lessons we can learn during the holidays is how to cultivate

relationships. **Stop telling people you love God, when you don't love your family and church members.**

3. At home, we can learn to nurture difficult relationships.

Colossians 3:12-13 (NASB)

12 So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience;

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also.

The birth of Jesus was the signal of the beginning of what God did to prove His love and forgiveness for us. The Christmas holiday presents an opportunity for us to mend broken relationships and extend forgiveness to those who have wronged us. **Everyone needs forgiveness. So, why not learn it at home?**

4. At home, we can learn forgiveness and reconciliation.

Luke 15:20-23 (NLT)

20 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.

21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.

22 "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet.

23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast,

Luke 15:25-32 (NLT)

25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house,

26 and he asked one of the servants what was going on.

27 ‘Your brother is back,’ he was told, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.’

28 “The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him,

29 but he replied, ‘All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends.

30 Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!’

31 “His father said to him, ‘Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours.

32 We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!’”

Christmas is a time of celebration. Most people don’t mind celebrating, as long the person being celebrated is not someone too close. Unfortunately, many others don’t feel worthy of being celebrated. The Christmas holidays are a time to be reminded that you’re not worthy because of what you have or haven’t done. **You’re worthy because of who you are.**

5. At home, we can learn to celebrate and be celebrated.

One day Jesus was talking to the Pharisees. They were upset that he spent time eating and talking to sinners and tax collectors. So, He told them a story. That story reminded them that there is a place of unity, honor, provision, safety, and celebration. Remember: **There’s No Place Like Home.**