

## You are Forgiven

**Luke 15:11-32 (NLT)-verse 11 listed**

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

### Summary:

Jesus often spoke in parables which felt like to many that he was talking in some sort of code. Jesus never intended to hide his wisdom or keep spiritual truth from the listeners. Rather, Jesus wanted people to lean into what he was communicating and think through what it meant for their own lives.

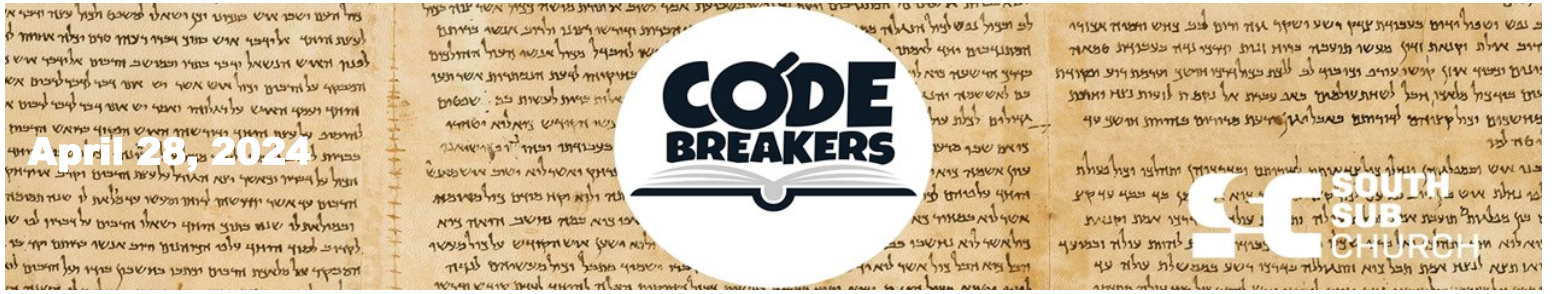
In today's parable, Jesus tells the story of a father forgiving his son after their relationship had been severed after choices the son had made. Through the parable, Jesus provides a clear picture of the forgiveness God provides when someone returns to him.

### Ice Breaker Questions:

1. The definition for "prodigal" is "having selfishly abandoned a person, group or ideal." What villain in a superhero movie could be considered prodigal?
2. Which word is the best choice for a synonym of "prodigal": reckless, squandering, careless, wasteful or high-rolling?
3. Describe a season in your own life that others considered you prodigal.
4. Share about a time you got jealous because of someone got something that wasn't earned or deserved.

### Scripture Study Questions:

1. Who does the father represent in the story?
2. Why does the younger son want to leave home?
3. Describe the younger son's attitude towards his father when he left home? Contrast it to his attitude upon returning home.
4. What changed his attitude?
5. The father saw the son returning while he was still a long way off. Do you think this was by chance?
6. How does the father treat the son when he returns?
7. How does the older son feel about the return of his younger brother?
8. Do you think the older brother is justified in his behavior? Why or why not?



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### Application Questions:

1. Which son do you most identify with?
2. What kind of person needs to hear this parable the most?
3. Four truths about forgiveness were identified:
  - Forgiveness requires acknowledging your current position
  - Forgiveness restores your former position
  - Forgiveness celebrates your new position
  - Forgiveness adjusts your position towards others

Which one is the most difficult for you to personally accept or do?

4. The gifts the father gave the son when he returned represent acceptance, honor and authority. Which gift do you need to accept from God today? Why?