

THE  
HOPE  
YOU  
NEED

2017 | the year of  
**H·O·P·E**

SUNDAYS  
FEB 12 - APR 16  
9 & 11 am



# GROWING CLOSER TO GOD THROUGH RELATIONSHIP

## The Father You've Always Wanted

Luke 15

Message by Pastor Kevin Cavanaugh  
Cedar Grove Church | February 19, 2017

### LEADER'S STUDY GUIDE

## Getting to Know One Another Talk About Your Dad

- What is or was his occupation, hobbies, interests?
- What emotions come into your heart when you think of your Dad? Are they positive/negative or a combination?
- What was your favourite thing/memory/experience with your Dad?
- How close are or were you to your Dad? L 1-2-3-4-5 H  
a) I speak to him often, b) I speak with him once in a while, c) I rarely speak with him

## THE FATHER YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED

Luke 15

The most important relationship in your life is with your **Heavenly Father!**

- This week we are going to attempt to grow closer to Him by deepening our **understanding** of who He really is in our lives.

**Prodigal:** Reckless, rash, extravagant consumer.

- The part in the Prodigal Son story that is truly unique isn't the son, it's **the Dad.**

## 7 Characteristics of The Dad You've Always Longed For

1. Our Heavenly Dad **Provides** for all who are under His care. *17 So he had this moment of self-reflection: "What am I doing here? Back home, my father's hired servants have plenty of food.*
2. Our Heavenly Dad watches for those who **Wander**.  
*20 The father looked off in the distance and saw the young man returning.*
3. Our Heavenly Dad **Feels** great compassion for the broken. *He felt compassion for his son and ran out to him, enfolded him in an embrace, and kissed him.*
4. Our Heavenly Dad quickly **Forgives** all who repent.  
*22 But the father turned to his servants and said, "Quick!*
5. Our Heavenly Dad expresses extravagant **Love**.  
*Bring the best robe we have and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. 23 Go get the fattest calf and butcher it.*
6. Our Heavenly Dad loves to **Party**.  
*Let's have a feast and celebrate 24 because my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and has been found." So they had this huge party.*

**7. Our Heavenly Dad has patience for Party Poopers.**

*28 The older brother got really angry and refused to come inside, so his father came out and pleaded with him to join the celebration.*

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

**1. Of the seven characteristics, which did your earthly Dad exemplify most? Least?**

**2. Which of these characteristics is hardest for you to believe is true about your Dad in Heaven? Why?**

**3. Which characteristic of your heavenly Father means most to you? Explain why.**

**4. All of us were raised by imperfect Fathers.** Most of us have what has been called a FATHER wound! Something that our earthly Dad's did or said, or didn't do or say, a hurt, that we carry around. What is yours?

**5. How close do you feel at this point in your life with your Heavenly Father?**

- a) I speak to Him Daily (Prayer)
- b) I speak with Him once in a while
- c) I rarely speak with Him

**6. Are there any correlations between your responses to your earthly Father and your Heavenly Father?**

## APPLICATION

**STOP & PRAY** | Focusing on your Heavenly Father

1. **Thank Him** for who He is in your life and what you most appreciate about Him.
2. **Take the wound(s)** of your earthly father and give them to your Heavenly Father. Ask Him to heal your heart by the power of His Holy Spirit.

## NOTES