



### Week 3: The Wesleyan Quadrilateral & God as a Good Father (Luke 15:11-24)

**ABIDE:** Silence & prayer to help us intentionally focus on recognizing it is the Holy Spirit at work in us & through us that helps us to understand the things of Christ. WE ARE FULLY DEPENDENT ON GOD.

The Wesleyan Quadrilateral gives us four tools to help us look at the issue from different angles. These keep us from relying only on our feelings, only on our opinions, or only on what others say. Instead, they guide us toward a balanced, biblical, and Christ-centered response.

- **Scripture:** What does the Bible say? The Bible is God's Word and our main guide for faith and life.
- **Tradition:** What have Christians believed through history? We learn from the wisdom and practices of Christians who came before us.
- **Reason:** Does this make sense with God's truth? God gave us minds to think, ask questions, and understand His truth.
- **Experience:** How have I seen God work in my life? Our experiences with God help us personally know that what Scripture teaches is true.

Scripture is the foundation. Tradition helps explain it. Reason helps us understand it. Experience helps us live it.

How Do We Know God Is a Good Father?

**OBEY:** We read, learn, and understand how to apply with the Bible teaches so that we can know what actions to do or not do. WE LIVE WHAT JESUS TAUGHT.

Luke 15:11-24 (New Living Translation)

To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. 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. 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. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 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. 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! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."' 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. 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.' 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. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began."

**Scripture:** Find all the places the "father" is talked about. List what you find.

What can we draw from this?

**Tradition:** Wesleyan theology teaches PREVENIENT GRACE. (God pursues us before we seek Him.)  
Romans 5:8, God receives us as his children (Romans 8:14-17), and forms his children (John 14:16).

**Reason:** Children need love, protection, guidance, correction, and presence. If imperfect earthly fathers can give these things, how much more can our heavenly Father?

**Experience:** We have encountered the Father's Love. Our testimony. What is your testimony of the Father's love for you?

**SURRENDER:** What idea or belief might God be asking you to surrender, to exchange for his truth today, in order to keep in step with the Holy Spirit?

**HOPE SHOT:** God is the Father who pursues us before we seek Him, welcomes us when we return, and never stops forming us into the people He created us to be.

Scripture tells us God is a good Father. Tradition reminds us He has always been known as Father. Reason shows us a perfect God must be the perfect Father. Experience assures us that we are His beloved children.

**GO:** Matthew 28:18-20 (ERV)

As followers of Jesus, in our everyday coming and going, we make disciples as we walk with people towards Jesus & show them how to live with Jesus.

**Action Steps:**

Is there someone I need to share this message/teaching with as a way to encourage them? Am I willing to do so?

Is there a belief I am being called to surrender in light of today's teaching?

Do I have other areas of belief that the Wesleyan Quadrilateral would be helpful for me to examine? If so, am I willing to do so?