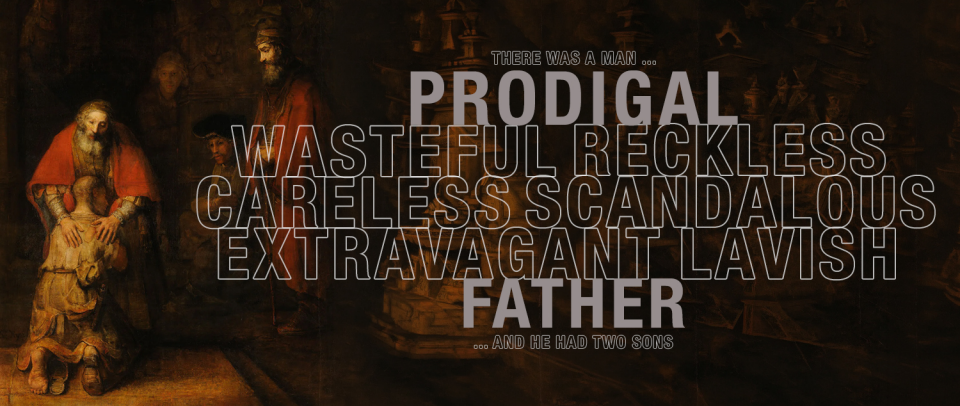




CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ...

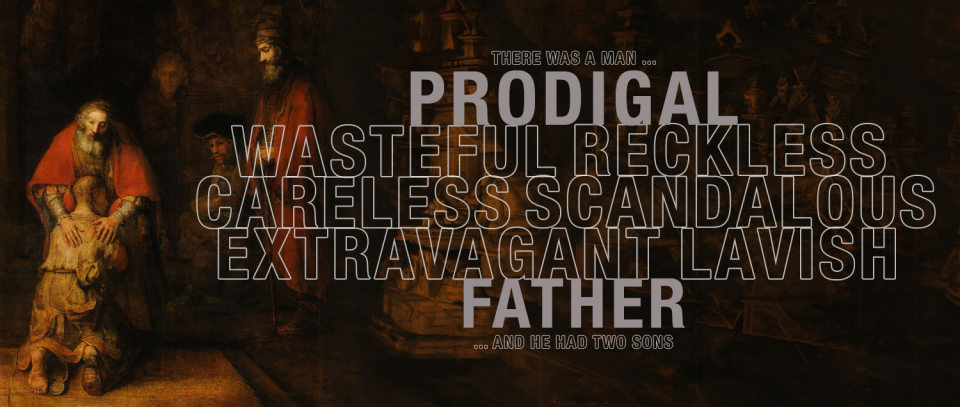
WEEK 1: WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN THE STORY?

Ever been in a theatre watching a movie or play and you are momentarily aware of the people around you? Ever wonder who they are and what drew them to that particular story?

Who we think the audience is *for a story*
impacts our participation *in the story*.

THINK ABOUT THESE ...

1. What does or has the adjective “*Prodigal*” meant to you?
2. The focus group for this story isn’t “sinners” but religious people. How does knowing the audience for Jesus story affect how you view the story and find yourself in the story?
3. In the context, who were the *moral insiders*? Why was their morality a hindrance to accepting Jesus and His teaching? How is our own morality sometimes a hindrance in fully trusting Jesus on a daily basis?
4. In what ways does this story challenge your preconceived ideas of who is lost and what constitutes lostness?
5. **Read Luke 7, John 3,4 and Luke 19:** Consider Jesus’ attitude to the younger and elder brother types:
The sexual, racial and political outsider.
How does that reflect what Jesus says in Matthew 21:31?
6. Jesus purpose in telling this story is not to warm our hearts but to shatter our categories. How does his story challenge you about: *God, sin, lostness and salvation*?
7. In what sense might it be dangerous to label the parable: ‘The Parable of the Prodigal Son’?
Which brother do you more easily relate to today?



CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ...

THINKING REVOLUTIONARY ...

Jesus' teaching consistently attracted the
irreligious outsiders of his day.

Are we as the followers of Jesus - attracting those who consider
themselves outsiders?

How is the good news of Jesus - attractive to you?

How does it inform how you see yourself in relation to God?

READ AND THINK ABOUT THESE WORDS (MEMORIZE THEM IF YOU CAN!):

*"But while he was still a long way off,
his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him;
he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."*

Luke 15 verse 20