

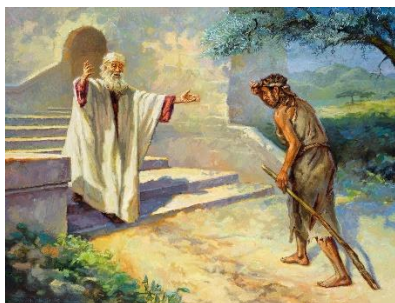


Christian Basics at the Hub

Blackley Community Hub

Thursday 31st July 2025

The Prodigal Son



Introduction

Today, we're diving into a story Jesus told—one that might speak to us whether we're feeling far from home or just curious about what faith means. It's a story about being lost, being found, and about a love that runs to meet us. You don't need to have answers tonight—just your honest questions, your listening heart, and a little courage to wonder together.

Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother

¹¹ Then Jesus^[a] said, ‘There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.” So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with^[b] the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, “How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.”^[c] ²² But the father said to his slaves, “Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!” And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ ‘Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, “Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.” ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, “Listen!

For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” ³¹ Then the father^[d] said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

✨ **Reflection Questions for Luke 15:11–32**

(The Prodigal Son)

1. What part of the story feels familiar or surprising to you?
2. Which character do you find yourself relating to most today—and why?
3. How do you think the father felt when he saw his son returning?
4. What does this story tell us about how God responds when we mess up?
5. Is there anything in this story that makes you wonder or want to ask more?



Closing Prayer

God of grace and welcome,
thank you for this time to listen, wonder, and share.
Thank you for the story of the prodigal son—
for its honesty, its homecoming,
and for the love that waits with open arms.
Be with each of us as we go from here:
whether we feel near to you or still far off.
Remind us that your welcome never ends—
and that your heart is always turned toward ours.
Amen.

If you want to access this session online, navigate to:

blackleycofe.church/documents/study-materials/Christian-basics-at-the-hub.php

Or scan the QR code to go straight to it on your phone or tablet.



If you have any questions or want to know more, please contact Rev Pam on 07834 424568, or at pam@blackleycofe.church

*The next session will be on **Thursday 27th August** at the Blackley Hub.*



Come and join us for one of our services, you will receive a warm welcome.

St Andrew's Church, Churchdale Road (off Crab Lane), M9 8NE
Sunday Service 9.30am and Wednesday Service 10.45am

St Peter's Church, Lion Brow (in Blackley Village) M9 8DY
Sunday Service 9.30am

St Paul's Church, Victoria Avenue, M9 6RA
Sunday Service 11.30am