

Living a Spirit Led Life Bible Study

**THE
PRODIGAL
GOD**

Study Guide

To be used with *The Prodigal God*, by Timothy Keller

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Introduction

Prodigal [L. produgus, from prodigo, to drive forth, to lavish.]

1. Given to extravagant expenditures; expending money or other things without necessity; profuse, lavish; not frugal or economical; as a prodigal man. A man may be prodigal of his strength, of his health, of his life or blood, as well as of his money.

2. Very liberal; profuse. Nature is prodigal of her bounties. (*Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary*)

Most of us have heard of the prodigal son, but calling God “prodigal”? At first glance, it might seem disrespectful or even wrong!

Yet isn't He a God who lavishes His strength, His provision, His love, and His blood—His very life on us? He is a prodigal God.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (or The Parable of the Two Lost Sons) is also the story of the prodigal God. It reveals the wonderfully extravagant heart of God and His great joy in restoring and celebrating relationships. It also reveals the truth about our hearts and what happens when we choose to go our own way—apart from God.

May you be joyfully surprised by the lessons that await you in this parable. May you receive the embrace of your Heavenly Father, an extravagantly generous, prodigal God.

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Study Guide Tips

What you'll need:

Your Bible (We've used the New International Version (NIV).)

***The Prodigal God* book**, by Timothy Keller

This 8-week **study guide**

Time set aside to let God speak to you through these tools and prayer.

How is the study guide set up?

1. Each week includes a brief **introduction** highlighting our focus for the week's study.
2. A weekly **memory verse** will help God's Word become part of your thinking.
Read it over once a day, write it on a note-card, and ask God to bring it to life for you.
3. Read through the **definitions** before beginning the week's study.
4. A copy of the **parable** (SG page 3) can be used to mark words and themes.
5. Each week has **questions** from your reading of *The Prodigal God*. We have supplied page numbers to make the referencing easier for you, but read the entire chapter.
6. **"Digging into the Scriptures"** is an opportunity to gain more insight on the week's teaching-point. You are welcome to look at other Scripture passages related to the topic at hand.

 "DIG DEEPER" before a Scripture is for those with a desire for more!
7. Some of the questions have been written in a **"Listening Prayer"** format, encouraging you to **interact with God through the Holy Spirit**. Quiet yourself and be intentional about listening. Practice is the best way of learning to hear and discern the voice of God.

When referring to page numbers in the study guide:

PG = *The Prodigal God* book

SG = The Study Guide