

# The Prodigal Son

## Aims and Objectives

- For young people to reflect on God's compassion & mercy
- For a deeper understanding of the parable of the prodigal son

## Duration of session

30 minutes

(Reflection PowerPoint can be used as a standalone 10 minute reflection)

| Time       | Activity                | Resources needed  |
|------------|-------------------------|---|
| 0-10 mins  | Prodigal Son Reflection | Prodigal Son PowerPoint (& reflection sheets if required) |
| 10-25 mins | Small group sharing     |   |
| 25-30 mins | Closing Prayer          | See PowerPoint  |

## Prodigal Son Reflection

**10 minutes**

Open the session with the Sign of the Cross.

Read through the Parable of the Prodigal Son scripture, see slides.

Use the PowerPoint to lead young people in a reflection on this passage and how God's compassion & mercy affect our lives.

Read through the slides slowly, allowing a pause in between each question to allow the young people time to think; you could use the reflection sheets to provide a focus.

While reflecting, play some quiet music to help young people enter into the reflection.

## Small Group Sharing

**15 minutes**

(Timings can be adapted to suit you group and session)

It can be helpful to allow young people to share their thoughts on this theme.

Split the young people into small groups (6-8 people in each group, with an adult to guide conversation)

Young people can share their answers to their questions if they feel comfortable (be aware that some of these answers may be sensitive so you could suggest they share how they felt rather than the actual situation)

If conversation is not flowing you could use these questions to provide a talking point:

- Why do we need forgiveness from God? How do we receive it?
- Have you ever had to ask forgiveness from somebody? How did it feel?



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- How do you think the younger son felt when he had squandered his inheritance?
- How do you think he felt asking for forgiveness from the Father?
- How do you think the older son felt seeing his brother return?
- Have you ever had this experience?
- How can we show compassion and mercy to others?

## Closing Prayer

**5 minutes**

Gather the group back together. Read the scripture quote from 1 John 3:1) Explain to the young people that we are always welcome home with God. We are His children and He loves us. Pope Francis says 'the Lord never tires of forgiving us; it is we who tire of asking.' Use the closing prayer from the PowerPoint to finish the session.



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