

# BibleWise

## Discussion Questions — Parable of the Lost Son (Luke 15: 11-32)

- What is this story about? Money? Wild living? Stubbornness? Forgiveness? Anger?
- Who wants his share of the family inheritance?
  - Why?
  - Is there some sibling rivalry?
- Are you aware that both boys receive their inheritance at the same time?
- Who received more? (the older usually receives a double portion)
- What does the younger brother do with his money?
- Was the famine in the land representative of the son's behavior or was it a real famine, like Joseph experienced in Egypt?
- What must it have been like for everyone to desert him?
- Have you ever found that if you have some money, everyone wants to be your friend until the money is gone?
- What was this experience telling him about true friendship?
- How do you make friends?
- What is important in a friendship?
- Did his dad kick him out of the house for asking for his inheritance?
- How do you think the mother felt about this? (she's not in the story, but think about her response)
- Where did the son go when he was penniless?
- What did he end up doing to earn food and shelter?
- Why was this a repulsive activity? (Jews saw pigs as unclean)
- What did he think about while feeding the swine?
- What did he decide to do?
- Can you see that he disliked feeding swine so much that he was willing to return home to a situation that caused him to leave?
- When he returns, how does his father greet him – with anger? with "I told you so"? with love?
- What does the father do to make the son feel at home?
- How might the mother have greeted him?
- Why does the older brother get angry?

- Do you think the older brother was justified for being upset that his brother got a party?
- What was the father's message to the younger son?
- What was the father's message to the older son?
- Was this a case of unconditional love?
- If you had been the mother, what would you have said to your sons?
- If you were the older brother, what do you think the father/mother should have done to your brother?
- Why did the older brother think the younger brother should be punished?
- Do you want to see people punished before you forgive them?
- What things are happening in the world today that require forgiveness?
- What do you think of the father's handling of things?
- What makes a good father?
- What qualities would make a good mother in this instance?
- Are these the same qualities you find in God as Mother?
- What qualities would make a good brother?
- What do you learn about judging others from this story?
- Think of a modern day story that would be like the Prodigal son.