

BibleWise

Discussion Questions – The Prodigal Son

Read Luke 15:11-32

- What is this story about?
 - Money?
 - Wild living?
 - Stubbornness?
 - Forgiveness?
 - Anger?
- Who wants his share of the family inheritance?
 - Are you aware that both boys receive their inheritance at the same time?
 - Who received more?
- What does the younger brother do with his money?
- Was the famine in the land representing his own 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?
- Did his dad kick him out of the house for asking for his inheritance?
- Where did he go when he didn't have any money?
- 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?
- When he returns, how does his father greet him?
 - With angry words?
 - With "I told you this would happen?"
 - With love?
- What does the father do to make the son feel at home?
- Why does the older brother get angry?

- Do you think he 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 were the older brother, what do you think the father 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?
- Describe the qualities you want in a good father.
 - Are these the same qualities you find in God as Father?