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## The BRIDGE Bible Study Pt. 1

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### Ivy Baptist Church Bible Study Teachers: Pastor Swann and Min. Meech October 2, 2024

#### Opening Thoughts:

- The Bridge Bible Study will bring ALL generations together to study the Word and find common ground with one another!
- Ivy strives to be an INTERGENERATIONAL church. People of ALL ages and backgrounds finding COMMON GROUND in JESUS!
- **John 12:32: And I, when I am lifted up from the Earth, will draw all people to myself**

#### Opening Question:

- What do you believe is the greatest challenge that prevents people from different generations connecting with one another?

#### -P and Meech's Answer:

- People see the world mostly through the generation and times (culture) they were raised in. It's hard for people to appreciate a different lens or way of seeing the world. **This is true even in church!!!**

#### Today's Study: The Prodigal Son: Luke 15:11-32 (NLT)

#### Overview of the Prodigal Son:

- Luke 15: The "Lost and Found" Chapter (Sheep, Coin and Son)
- In all 3 illustrations, Jesus is emphasizing the pain of losing something valuable and the JOY of finding it again!

#### The Prodigal Son, Pt. 1 (Luke 15:11-12)

- **Phase 1: Doing My own Thing (Luke 15:11-12)**
- One son desired to leave the Father. The other son stayed with the Father. Which "son" do you most relate to? Why?

#### The Prodigal Son, Pt. 2 (Luke 15:13-19)

- **Phase 2: Ain't Too Proud to Beg (Luke 15:13-19)**
- The Prodigal Son "came to himself" and went back to the Father. But many would have stayed and struggled rather than go back. Are you more likely to go back or try to figure things out on your own? WHY?

**KEY POINT! (LUKE 15:11-32)**

- THE WORD “PRODIGAL” IS NOT IN THE BIBLE BUT USED TO DESCRIBE THE SON WHO LEFT
- THE WORD PRODIGAL DESCRIBES SOMEONE WHO SPENDS MONEY FREELY WITHOUT THOUGHT AND IS RECKLESS WITH WHAT THEY HAVE
- DO YOU TRULY APPRECIATE WHAT YOU HAVE? ALL OF WHAT YOU HAVE?

**THE PRODIGAL SON PT. 3 (LUKE 15:20-32)**

- **PHASE 3: I’M BETTER OFF....? (LUKE 15:20-32)**
- WHICH SON MADE THE BETTER DECISIONS? THE ONE THAT LEFT AND REALIZED HIS MISTAKES OR THE SON WHO STAYED BUT DIDN’T UNDERSTAND HIS BROTHER’S CHOICES? IS IT WORTH GOING THROUGH THINGS? WHICH PATH DID YOU TAKE TO GET TO CHRIST? WHY?

**Conclusion on the Prodigal Son story:**

- We can see ourselves in the text from multiple vantage points regardless of our age!
- The blessing is knowing that no matter how old or young we are we can ALWAYS GO BACK to our Father! And He will WELCOME US!