

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further ***International Bible Lessons***

Luke 15:11-24

Sunday, April 24, 2016

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. When do you think the lost son really left his father?

He left him mentally and spiritually before he asked his father for his inheritance. He left his father physically when he walked away from his father to a distant country.

2. How does God the Father treat some of His lost children compared to the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin in Luke 15?

In the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, the shepherd and the woman search until they find the sheep and the coin. In the parable of the lost son, the father lets his son go and do what he wants and waits with compassion for him to return.

3. In what ways do the three parables in Luke 15 give you assurance as a child of God?

God will search for some of His children until He finds them, and He will send the Spirit of Jesus to others to bring them to their senses so they will return to Him. In either way, God will find any child of His that is lost and God will rejoice when He finds them or is reunited with them. Remembering this can give assurance to a child of God, which does not mean that a child of God should take God's redeeming love for granted.

4. In what ways do you think the father disciplined his son?

The father let his son experience the consequences of his choices. The father did not run to him and plead with him to return home, but waited prayerfully at home.

5. From your study of this parable, how important can a Christian home and regular Sunday school attendance be in the life of a child of God?

Very important, because then a lost child of God will have Biblical truths to remember, which makes it is easier for them to come to their senses and return to their Father.

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