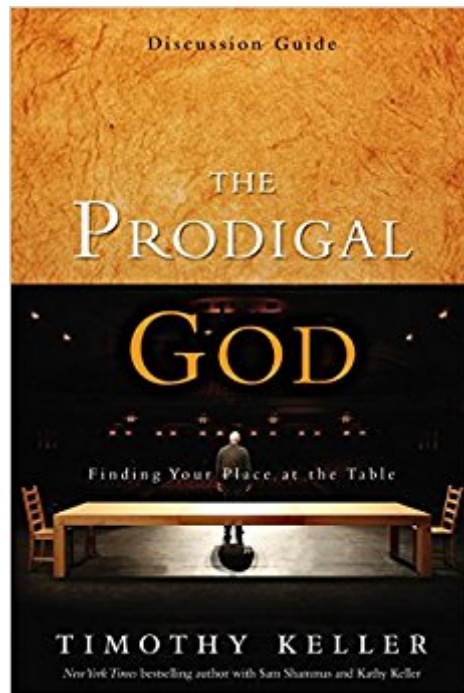




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# **The Prodigal God Discussion Guide: Finding Your Place At The Table**



## Synopsis

In this six-session small group Bible study, pastor and bestselling author Timothy Keller uses one of Jesus' best-loved parables – the Prodigal Son – to illustrate the depth of God's love and how his grace extends into some very unexpected places. Taking you beyond the traditional focus on the wayward younger son, Keller helps you glean insights from each of the characters in Jesus' parable: the irreligious younger son, the moralistic elder son, and the Father who lavishes his love on both. Inside this guide, you'll explore questions for group discussion and personal reflection, and exercises that will help you experience the truths of Jesus' parable in your own life. The gospel is neither religion nor irreligion, but something else entirely. Whether you're a devout believer or a skeptic, The Prodigal God will challenge you to see Christianity in a whole new way. This Prodigal God Discussion Guide will help you uncover, personalize, and apply life-changing insights from The Prodigal God DVD and book. In six captivating sessions, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller opens your eyes to the powerful message of Jesus' best known and least understood parable. The Prodigal God is a revelation of the very heart of the gospel: God's radical love for sinners of every kind. This Discussion Guide is designed for use together with The Prodigal God DVD and book (both sold separately). Includes discussion questions for groups and individuals, suggested resources for further reading, Scripture references, helpful notes for leaders, and much more. When used together with the DVD this study provides users with practical tools that transform their faith. Session include: 1. The Parable The People Around Jesus 2. The Two Lost Sons 3. The Elder Brother 4. The True Elder Brother 5. The Feast of the Father

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

'Explain, explode, expose, explore--all of these Jesus did by telling the parable of the prodigal son. In this book, Timothy Keller shows us something of how this story actually reveals the heart of God, and, if we read it carefully, our own hearts. This brief exposition is unsettling and surprisingly satisfying. Like seeing something as familiar as your own home, or your own self, with new eyes. Enjoy and profit.' -- Mark Dever

–“In The Prodigal God, Timothy Keller has given us a clear description of the power of the gospel for those inside and outside the church. With profound insight Keller shows us why the religious and irreligious alike need to be recreated into someone new. You will be surprised to see Jesus through a fresh lens that challenges many traditional assumptions of what God is like. This is a book that will shape lives for many years to come.”

–Â• -- Dr. Rick McKinley

Two sons, one who kept the rules religiously and one who broke them all. One Father who loved both lost sons beyond anything they could imagine. Discover how deep and far God's grace goes in The Prodigal God The Prodigal God discussion guide will help you uncover, personalize, and apply life-changing insights from The Prodigal God DVD and book. In six captivating sessions, pastor and New York Times bestselling author Timothy Keller opens your eyes to the powerful message of Jesus' best-known---and least understood---parable. The Prodigal God is a revelation of the very heart of the gospel: God's radical love for sinners of every kind. Taking you beyond the traditional focus on the wayward younger son, Keller helps you glean insights from each of the characters in Jesus' parable: the irreligious younger son, the moralistic elder son, and the Father who lavishes his love on both. Inside this guide, you'll explore questions for group discussion and personal reflection, and exercises that will help you experience the truths of Jesus' parable in your own life. The gospel is neither religion nor irreligion, but something else entirely. Whether you're a devout believer or a skeptic, The Prodigal God will challenge you to see Christianity in a whole new way. Session titles include the following: The Parable The People Around Jesus The Two Lost Sons The Elder Brother The True Elder Brother The Feast of the Father Designed for use with The Prodigal God DVD and book.

We didn't read the book along with the video sessions, but the questions provided in this discussion

guide are fantastic for stimulating focused conversations. Our Biblestudy group is an interesting modge podge of people with different Christian backgrounds. One member had never been in an open discussion based study, so questions like this encouraged her to look on her own at scripture in a new way. Another member is a new Christian and the open discussion atmosphere helped her feel emboldened by the Holy Spirit to contribute to conversation. My co-leader and I were more like conversation facilitators because the scripture and Keller's explanation is so straightforward. I found the videos on Vimeo for about \$20. We're a group of college aged girls, but I'd suggest this to any group of any age because the story of the younger and elder brothers is God's message to all his children.

Based on a couple of reviews I read on I almost decided not to use the study. I am so glad I did though! I have lead studies in group settings for 14 years now and this one has been one of the best. It's profound in content. Well organized. Really easy to lead with little to no prep work required and yet is not overly simplistic which is so often the case when something is easier to lead. The discussion that the study has generated in our group has been deep and thought provoking. I could not be more pleased. While the discussion guide is not essential for the study it's definitely been helpful and the appendices at the back on idols is useful. The guide made breaking up into smaller sub groups possible which I found to be beneficial to take things from the general to specific and making it personally applicable. As you can tell I highly recommend 'The Prodigal God'

Review of the Study:I just cam back from the last session of the six week study. This was the first small group study that I led and I loved my experience! I feel like I learned just as much if not more than anyone who attended the study. The Prodigal God book was amazing and really changed my view of the gospel. I recommend the book to anyone. I recommend the small group discussion guide and dvd to any small group. It was very eye-opening and challenging. The gospel is the most fundamental truth of Christianity, yet we should never stop appreciating or reminding ourselves of it. If we do not continually have a fresh understanding of the gospel, we will fall into either dead religion or immorality. This book and study really gives Christ followers a fresh understanding of the gospel and God's love for us. The only agenda in this book is to point us to the gospel of Jesus Christ. I love it. I would consider Prodigal God one of my favorite books.Review of the DVD:If you're looking for 20 minute dvd sessions every week, this does not give you that. It is one 40 minute movie for the first session with 2 minute recap clips for the following sessions. At first i was a little nervous thinking that we will not fill up the hour and a half that we have with discussion...but we did! We

could have almost done without the dvd clips we had so much discussion. Sometimes we went to 2 hours! It's more of a book based study than a dvd study. I would encourage everyone in the group to get the Prodigal God book. I think only the leader needs the discussion booklet to pose questions to the group. i also used an easel for some charts that were in the discussion booklet. It all worked out really well.

Our church did this study and found it to be very beneficial. Hopefully, everyone knows that the videos that accompany the study are basically one main sermon on session 1 with six 3-4 minute reviews of the first session. This made our group a little hesitant at first because we mainly enjoy a good 20 minute video and then discussion but this discussion guide is good and has good questions if people keep up with the reading. I highly recommend it.

Excellent product, reasonable price and fast shipment.

If you're seeking truth beyond the printed pages of scripture to this powerful parable, then I recommend you read this short, yet powerful, in depth study of the parable of the Prodigal Son. Inappropriately named, the Prodigal son, by tradition, it really speaks of the extravagant love and mercy of a loving, forgiving father. If you're not satisfied with traditional interpretations of, what I consider, the most powerful and profound parable taught by Jesus, then pick up this book as fast as you can. Keller takes you behind the scenes to study the Jewish traditions of what was happening behind the words of the youngest sons desire for his portion of the inheritance, and the extravagant, grace filled (Prodigal - true meaning), love of the father for of his sons who were both "missing the mark". Tradition has taught far too long on the "sins" of the younger son, neglecting an even greater trespass of the older son. The book is also formatted for small group study, with a DVD presentation of Keller's teaching. This book changed the way my congregation views the Prodigal "GOD" parable. No more is it to be entitled the prodigal son parable, that is historically, biblically and by definition in gross error of the true meaning of this parable. Don't take my word for it, buy the book first and read it for yourself. I highly recommend it for your personal enlightenment and just possibly change your view of God forever.

Been a great study, but expensive for group participants. A combined book and a stronger instructor's section would have been better.

Everything that Tim Keller does ranks high in my opinion. This took a different approach to this very familiar story that is very convicting. Used it for an Adult Sunday School Class and some folks had difficulty looking within themselves. Very interesting video presentation that goes with it..not your ordinary lecture presentation.

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