

Asking, "What is on God's heart?" is a broad question. Maybe phrasing it, "What is God's heart for us?" helps to narrow it down. We've all had Father's, some good, some terrible. Sometimes we were left wondering what was on our biological Father's heart. But there is a Father who is always for us, who only wants our best and has revealed to us his heart for us in his word. Join us for this series, "The Heart of the Father" and explore God's heart for the world.



Luke Overview:

**Author and Date:** Luke the physician around 61-62 A.D.

**First readers and their location:** Luke and Acts were first written for Theophilus Gentile believer who wanted more detailed information about Jesus and the early church.

**Why was it written?:** Luke himself gives us the reason for his **record of Jesus' life:** "...I myself have carefully investigated

### Open-up

Have you ever lost anything of value? What was it and how did it feel? What did you do to find what was lost? Why did you go to such measures?

Thought: If lost or misplaced material valuables cause us to hunt for them diligently, how much more does God pursue people, created in His image, for relationship with Him?

The story in Luke 15 is often known as the Prodigal Son. It really is a story about a Father who loves all people lavishly. Read Luke 15:1-32 and pay attention to how it all begins.



Into the Bible—**Ask “What does it Say?”**

Read: Luke 15:1-32

What do you notice about the passage itself? (Structure, repeated words or ideas, unique words, main points, what did this passage say to the original author and audience)

Who are the characters in this story? What role do they play?

How did the different characters respond in this story? The Father? The oldest son? The youngest son?

What do you learn about God and Jesus in this passage?

What questions does it raise for you about the youngest and oldest sons?

***From the Message on Sunday:*** What fresh insights did you learn as Pastor Rob unpacked some of the historical and cultural details? Family dynamics in a Middle Eastern culture / The true intent of the younger son / The responsibilities of the older son as reconciler / The unthinkable responses of the father



Into my life—Ask “What does this look like in my personal life?”

How have you viewed God’s love in the past or presently? In your view, who has been worthy (or not) of God’s love? Why?

How is God’s love evidenced within the life of a disciple?

In what ways have you seen “the heart of the Father” demonstrated through Westwood Church? Where do you see opportunities for growth?

How will you be different today because of what you just read?

#### **Other Application Questions:**

Is there something to worship or thank God for?

Is there a promise to claim or a truth to believe?

Is there something I am convicted about that I need to work on?

Is there something or someone I need to pray for this week? (Be specific)

Is there any relationship I need to work on?



Into the World—Ask “what does this look like in my world?”

Pray for one another that God would grow your own heart to be more like His.

Ask forgiveness if you have treated others as less worthy of God’s love. Think of one person who you may think is beyond God’s love. Pray for them.

Ask God to provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate God’s love to them.

Prayer List:

My challenge for this week:

More Resources for personal and group use:

<https://www.precept.org/know-gods-word/>

*A little about Westwood Church...*

We believe that God changes lives!

That motivates us to...

Bring Jesus into Life

By...

...becoming an increasingly healthy, vibrant and effective witness for Jesus in Prince George and around the world!

We do this by engaging in three things:



**GATHER**

Sunday mornings to celebrate and learn about God



**GROUPS**

Weekly meetings that go deeper in relationships with each other and God



**GO**

Serving in the church and community to present Jesus to the world