



Small Group/ Reflection Notes

12-01-2025		The Younger Son	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> If you had to sum up your week in one photo, what would it be/ consist of?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> How might/ does it feel to be the youngest? The best part is... The worst part is... <input type="checkbox"/> Why does 'the grass always seem greener' elsewhere? <input type="checkbox"/> What are 'tell tell' signs you/ others might be detaching from a relationship/ community? <input type="checkbox"/> When have you had a friendship/ relationship strained/ broken? <input type="checkbox"/> When have you had a friendship/ relationship restored? <input type="checkbox"/> Why can inheritance issues sometimes be messy?		
 Read	<u>Luke 15:11-24</u>	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.11-12</u> : What did the Younger Son ask for? Is inheritance normally a 'right' or a 'gift'? When is any inheritance normally allocated? What was the Younger Son in effect saying? Why might the father have responded as he did? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.13</u> : Why 'not long after'? What did he take? Why? v.22: What did he leave behind. Why? What was he looking/ hoping for? What makes something a 'distant land'? Is 'distance' always measured in miles/ kms? Have you ever found yourself in a 'distant land'? How did he lose all that he had? How were other people viewing/ treating him? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.14-16</u> : What had happened to his dream life? How were others now viewing/ treating him? As well as money, what else had he lost? How was his life spiralling down? What was the significance of 'pigs'? What did this say about how others saw his identity/ worth/ humanity? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.17-19</u> : Why was hitting 'rock bottom' the best thing that could have happened to him? Have you, or someone you know, ever hit 'rock bottom'? How? Why does it sometimes require this before 'coming to your senses'? How do you support someone in crisis? Why can trying to 'solve someone' be well-intentioned by rob them of hitting 'rock bottom'? What can it deny them? What was the Younger Son starting to realise? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.20-21</u> : What does returning <i>start</i> with? Why was this all that the father needed? What had the Younger Son expected to have done? Where? Why? Instead, what did the father do? Where? Why? What does that say about forgiveness? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.22-24</u> : What had the Younger Son never ceased to have been, even when in the 'distant land'? What does it feel like to be restored/ forgiven by God?		

<p>Go further</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:1: What does it mean to be a 'child of God'? If you are a child of someone, can you ever cease to be their child?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 1:5: What does it mean to be adopted? What does it mean to be adopted <i>by God</i>?</p>
<p>Reflect</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> When have you been 'the Younger Son'?</p>
<p>Do</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Take time to reflect/ meditate on Rembrandt's painting of The Return of the Prodigal Son. What do you notice about the son? What he's wearing? His hair? His position/ posture? His expression? What has gone on before this moment? What is happening now? Picture yourself as the Younger Son receiving God's embrace/ forgiveness/ unconditional love.</p>
<p>Pray</p> 	
<p>My questions:</p> 	

If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.