

The God Who Waits – Luke 15:11-32

Waiting through difficult times can be so challenging that we might sometimes feel that the waiting itself is a form of suffering. And indeed, it can be. This is, in part, why we often experience renewed hope and strength when we are able to trust that God is with us to help us, keep us and bless us in our waiting.

We may be equally moved to learn that God knows what it is like to wait. In one of the stories that Jesus told, he described God as the waiting Father. God, our Creator, our Sustainer, our Life, waits for us.

As you study this powerful passage, may the beauty of the grace of our God speak to you in ways that allow you to truly meet God anew in your times of waiting.

The story that Jesus tells in this text is often referred to as the story of the prodigal son. But it most importantly paints a stunning portrait of God, the waiting Father, who waits for *us*, scans the horizon looking for us and runs to embrace us when we are still far from home.

1. What words would you use to describe an ideal relationship between a father and child?
2. Read Luke 15:11-32. What words would you use to describe the two sons in this story? How are they different? How are they the same?
3. Looking back on your own life, which son do you think you have had the most in common with?
4. What character traits are evident in the father's waiting?
5. What did the father do when his waiting was over? What emotions does the father's reaction stir in you?
6. What does Jesus teach us about God in this story?
7. How does Jesus' picture of who God is compare to your images of God?
8. How can this story impact you when it comes to "waiting for God"?