

Scripture and Background Information for December 30 – January 5

To prepare for your discussion each week, use the **Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scriptures at the bottom of this page.

However, this week is unique! *We have given you a longer narrative passage which is too long for you to copy word for word. Instead, read the passage 2-3 times, with one reading from a different translation than you usually use. Then prepare to retell the story in your own words.*

Background for Luke 15:11-32

So far in Luke, Jesus has made known through his actions toward others that He cares about those who the rest of the world only shame and judge. The Pharisees, who were known for following all the rules, judge Jesus for spending His time with these people. The parables in chapter 15 are addressed to the Pharisees and meant to explain Jesus' priority of seeking those who are far from God.

One of the most well-known parables found in all of Jesus' teaching, the parable of the prodigal son, has more than one lesson. Each person in the story has something unique to teach us about God and the way that He pursues His children.

Regardless of who you might identify with most in the story, Jesus makes it clear in his three parables in chapter 15 of His love for us—and His joy that results when those who are far from Him are found.

Scriptures for group discussion for the upcoming series, "Fool Proof."

January 6-12	Proverbs 4:5-9
January 13-19	Proverbs 13:14-16, 20-21
January 20-26	Proverbs 11:23-26
January 27-February 3	Proverbs 30:5-9