

Prayer Updates

PRAYER UPDATES

Prayer Updates are available at the Info Desk. Please pick one up after the service.

THROUGH CANCER WITH CARE

Connect with others who understand, personal interaction & resources, encouragement & prayer. New times & place — first & third Thursday, begins with refreshments at 6:45, at TLC Gym, Rm. 104. Call Jan, 462-2271 or Gerry, 476-8735, or go to www.tlc.org/care

We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups — call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

Home for the Holidays Christmas Concert

December 15th: 8pm

December 16th: 5pm & 7pm

December 17th: 9am, 11am & 6pm

- Admission is free!
- Invite your friends and family!
- Pick up a poster at the Info Desk and put it in your home or business!

Christmas Candlelight Services AT TWIN LAKES CHURCH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
6:00PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
10:45 AM, 4:00PM, 5:30PM & 7:00PM
GENESIS SERVICE AT 11:00PM



“Come Home to God”

Message by René Schlaepfer
December 9 & 10, 2006

Deep within our souls, we long to come home to God. But sometimes we wonder if we're really welcome, considering our failures or doubts. In Luke 15:11-32 Jesus tells us we are!

What this tells me about God

- **God is patient enough to** _____
“... While he (the son) was still a long way off, his father saw him...” Luke 15: 20
- **God is passionate enough to** _____
“... he RAN to his son!” Luke 15:20
“... threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Luke 15:20
- **God is forgiving enough to** _____
“I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” Luke 15:21

Make it personal

- Come** _____
“When he came to his senses, he said, “How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death...” Luke 15:17
- Come** _____
“...I’ll say to him: ‘Father, I have sinned...’” Luke 15:18
- Come** _____
“...I will set out and go back to my father...” Luke 15:18
“Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come fearlessly into God’s presence, assured of his glad welcome.” Ephesians 3:12 (NLT)
- Come** _____
“But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.” Luke 15: 22-24

God is welcoming you to him!

“He came into the very world he created, but the world didn’t recognize him... But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn — not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” John 1:10-13

Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on this week's topic

Some devotional questions were adapted from *The Serendipity New Testament for Groups* and *NavPress LessonMaker*.

Monday

What point in this weekend's message hit home for you?

Read Luke 15:11-24. How did the younger son live when he was out on his own? What happened to him there?

Why did the father call for a celebration?

How have you been like the prodigal son in this story?

What do the actions of the father represent?

Today thank God for His amazing love for you! If you are a prodigal, now is the day to come home running into His arms! Also, please pray that next weekend's concert will honor God with artistic excellence and reach out to the prodigal sons and daughters!

Tuesday

Read Luke 15:25-32. What complaints did the older brother bring to his father?

Why did the father want the older brother to be happy?

When have you been like the older brother? How do "church people" act like the older brother at times?

Read Luke 14:15-24. How would it feel to plan a big event and have no one attend?

How did the master ensure that the banquet would be full?

How does your responsibility to God correspond to the actions of the servant?

Pray that your heart will be full of joy as you see prodigals hearing the message of God's love next weekend — and go to the "highways and byways" to invite them. Please pray that this weekend's concert will be full of "prodigals" who will return to their Heavenly Father.

Wednesday

Please read Luke 15:1-7. As a child, did you ever get lost from your family or group? What happened?

Have you ever lost a child somewhere for a time? What did that feel like?

In verse 2, what were the religious leaders grumbling about?

Wednesday (continued)

In this parable, how might the sheep have gotten lost? How do you go astray?

How does a shepherd bring a lost sheep home (v. 5)?

What does he do when he brings the sheep home?

What can you do this week to help bring the lost sheep home? Pray about who you might invite to the next two weekends at church! Also, please pray that the musicians in this weekend's concert will stay spiritually and physically healthy. Pray for safe travel for the musical group "Rescue".

Thursday

Read Luke 15:8-10. What emotions do you feel when you find a valuable item that was lost?

What can you learn about God from this parable?

What can you learn about how God values people from this parable?

With what "lost coin" can you share an invitation to the concert this weekend — or otherwise share the message of God's persistent love for them?

Thank God for his patience and persistence in restoring you to Him!

Please pray that God will be honored in this weekend's concerts. Tonight is the dress rehearsal, so please pray that it goes smoothly. Consider coming to an early show, and then returning to a later show with some "lost sheep" or "lost coins" you've invited!

Friday

In summary of all the passages we've seen so far this week, how do these three parables answer the Pharisees' objection in Luke 15:2? What do they explain about why Jesus came to earth?

Today I would like to ask you to spend some extra time in prayer dedicating the evangelistic mission of this weekend's concerts to God in prayer. Pray that the musicians and singers themselves will grow through this ministry. Pray that the people who attend, whether believers or seekers, will grow closer to Christ. Pray that God will lay on your heart the names of some you may have yet to invite. Pray that the brief yet important message delivered by René would be empowered and blessed by the Holy Spirit to move people's hearts closer to God. Thank you!

Saturday

Please meditate on this week's memory verse. What does it teach you about the heart of God? How does this explain the reason for Christmas? Finish any devotions you may have missed, and please ask God to supernaturally work in the hearts of all who attend the weekend concerts.

Next week's daily meditations will be available at the information desk rather than inserted into the concert programs this weekend.



"So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." John 1:14 (NLT)

