

## Prayer and Worship

### Lent

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#### **BIG IDEA**

Lent kicks off the Easter season. It is a time for reflection, preparation, and repentance for our sins.

#### **GROUP OPENER**

Is there a memorable event or tradition from your childhood that marked the beginning of a season of celebration?

#### **GROUP DISCUSSION**

- Read this longer passage Luke 15:11-24. Twice out loud, in different versions of the Bible – everyone listens.
- What are some significant observations you have about this text? What stood out? What didn't you like? What was confusing?
- What does this passage teach us about God? How does it change how I see God?
- What does this passage teach us about humanity/ourselves? How would it change how I treat others?
- What does this passage teach us about obedience? How should it affect the way I live?

March 2  
WEEKEND

#### **As a Group Discussion:**

Confession is acknowledging our sin before God and others.

Repentance is turning away from our former sin, it is a commitment to change.

#### **Questions:**

Where do you see confession and repentance in the story from today?

What other emotions does guilt bring up in our lives?

What is the posture of the father (God) in the story?

#### **Discussion:**

Notice that the father in the story is ready with forgiveness. While the son was a long way off... the father was watching the road.

Notice that the son doesn't even get through his story before the father interrupts.

#### **Question:**

How does true repentance change things?

#### **ACTION STEPS**

*I will statement...*

- Based on what God is teaching in this passage, what should I do? Reflect for a minute or two and develop an action statement. Put it in the form, "I Will \_\_\_\_\_". Make it concrete, simple, and achievable.
- Share your "I Will" statement with the group.

#### **ON YOUR OWN**

##### **Things to Consider for Lent:**

Consider a fast from something this season from something.

What is something you could do for the next 40 days to make this season of Lent memorable?

Set your phone background to this for the next 7 days: <https://www.necchurch.org/easter-prayer/>