

# PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

**LUKE CHAPTER 15** 



Set the scene:

Three people in the scene –

Father = God Older Son = Law Keeping Sinner Younger Son = Law Breaking Sinner

## Visio Divina for Evangelicals

Using Art & Scripture



### Art & Spiritual Formation

Evangelicals generally do not connect art and spiritual formation. They are often so "word-centered" that they look at other forms of spiritual expression as being too mystical in nature.

"Art helps us understand the complexities of theology and of life and awakens our spirits to the wonder of God's Word and God's world."

Terry Glaspey – *Discovering God Through the Arts* 

## Evangelical Visio Divina (Divine Image)

Evangelical Visio Divina is experiencing the presence of God through art <u>and</u> God's Word.

#### 1. PREPARE:

- Quiet your mind before God.
- Ask the Father to draw you closer to him through this experience.
- Give him permission to speak to you in whatever way he desires.

#### 2. MEDITATE:

- Focus on the image:
  - First impressions What is the first thing that catches your eye?
  - Thoughts What comes to mind as you view the image?
  - Emotions What emotions arise as you look deeper at the image?
  - Details Notice color, shape, contrast, lighting, etc.
  - Scripture What passage(s) from God's Word come to mind?

#### **MEDITATE:**

#### • Focus on Scripture:

- Find and read aloud the Scripture passage(s) from above.
- How does the image capture the basic message of the scripture?
- How does the image capture the details and nuances of the Scripture?
- What attribute(s) of God does the image portray?
- What is God personally saying to you through the Scripture and the image?

#### 3. RESPOND:

#### • Praise:

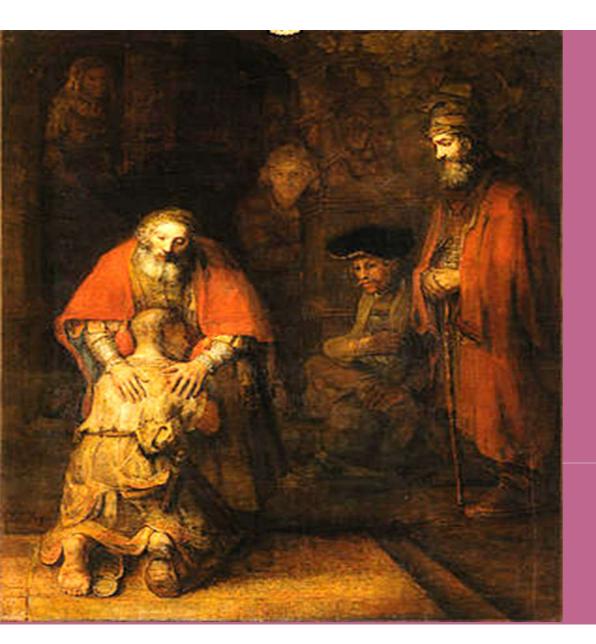
- > Praise God for what he has revealed to you about himself.
- Praise God for what he has revealed to you about yourself

#### • Commit:

- What actions are you being prompted by the Father to take?
- > Commit to following through with those actions.

#### **PREPARE:**

- Quiet your mind before God.
- Ask the Father to draw you closer to him through this experience.
- Give him permission to speak to you in whatever way he desires.

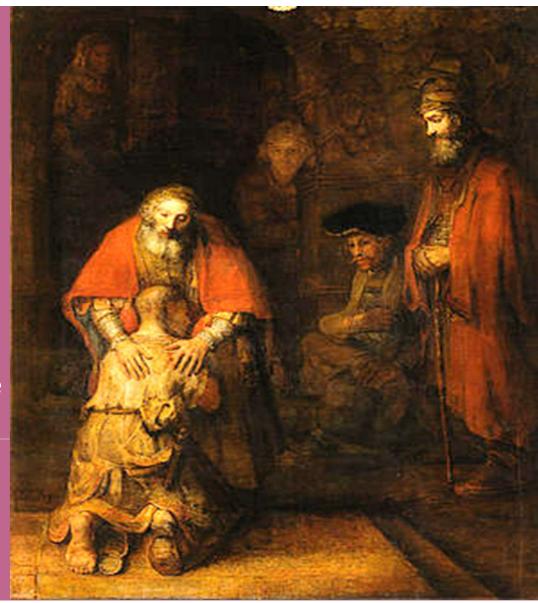


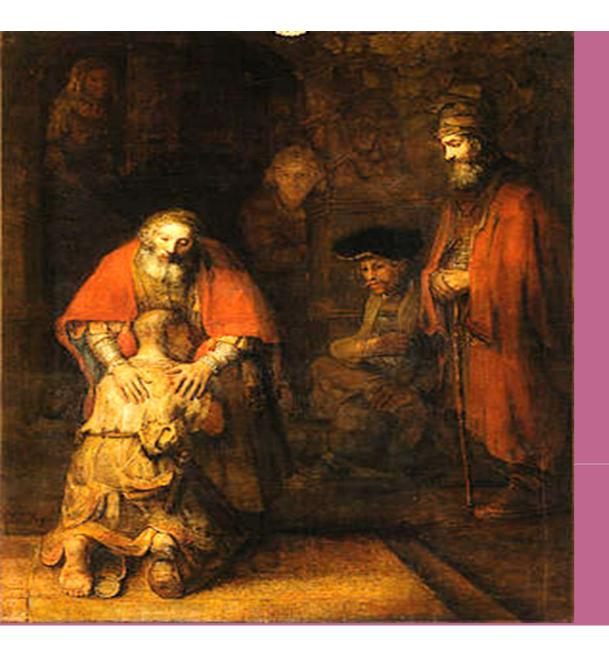
#### Focus on the image:

- First impressions What is the first thing that catches your eye?
- Thoughts What comes to mind as you view the image?
- Emotions What emotions arise as you look deeper at the image?
- Details Notice color, shape, contrast, lighting, etc.

#### **Focus on Scripture:**

- Find and read aloud the Scripture passage from Luke 15:11-32.
- ➤ How does the image capture the basic message of the scripture?
- ➤ How does the image capture the details and nuances of the scripture?
- What attribute(s) of God does the image portray?





#### **RESPOND:**

#### Praise

- Praise God for what he has revealed to you about himself.
- Praise God for what he has revealed to you about yourself.

#### • Commit

- What actions are you being prompted by the Father to take?
- Commit to following through with those actions.

## Repentance in 1st century Judaism:

## You must do three things:

- 1. Confess sin
- 2. Make compensation
- 3. Demonstrate sincerity

## Parable of the Lost Younger Son:

Request – ANE to ask for inheritance is to say... "Drop Dead!"

Man does not want God to have dominion over him.

## **Actions in the story:**

Younger Son – What he asks Older Son – What he doesn't do Father – What he grants

## **Younger Son's Actions:**

- 1. Turns property into cash quickly
- 2. Wastes inheritance on expensive living
- 3. Embarrassed / Afraid
- 4. Broken relationship / No broken law
  - a) I have sinned
  - b) Make me a skilled craftsman

### **Father's Actions:**

- 1. Watching
- 2. Running
- 3. Costly demonstration of unexpected love
- 4. Restores son
  - a) Ring
  - b) Robe / Shoes