

THE PRESENT WORD

ADULT BIBLE LESSONS

W O R S H I P L E A F L E T S

The Lord's Prayer is used in most sessions. Refer to this page when so indicated.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray (*select a version of the prayer*):

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE PRESENT WORD

ADULT BIBLE LESSONS

W O R S H I P L E A F L E T S

THE PRODIGAL SON

*Responses are in **bold**.

OPENING SENTENCES

Luke 15:9–10 (*BCW*, p. 375)

Rejoice with me! The lost are found.

There is joy in the presence of God.

HYMN

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals
he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain:

“Come home, (come home),
come home (come home)!
You who are weary, come home.”
Earnestly, tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling, “O sinner, come home.”

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” (*GtG*, #418)

O, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned,
he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me.
Refrain

SCRIPTURE

15:11 Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my

Luke 15:11–24

father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.”

BIBLE STUDY

To be led using the Participant’s Book, p. 2, and Leader’s Guide, p. 3.

PRAYER OF THE DAYLuke 15:11b–24; 2 Cor. 5:18–20 (*FOWWC-C1*, pp. 119–20)

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways.
Like the Prodigal Son, we have wasted our inheritance.
You gave us the earth for our home,
but we squander earth's resources and hoard
its bounty.
You gave us neighbors to love,
but we pursue selfish ambitions.
You gave us the commandments that lead to
human flourishing,
but we break your law and forsake your love.
Forgive us our sin and bring us back to repentance.
Draw our wandering hearts back to you
that we may find freedom in obedience to your love.
Through Jesus Christ our lord we pray.

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child,
so God embraces all who return in true repentance.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Gracious God, seeker of the lost:
draw your children back into your loving embrace,
restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons,
and reconcile our hearts to you,
that we may become ambassadors
of your reconciling love to all the world.

A time of silence and individual prayers of thanksgiving and intercession may follow.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pray the Lord's Prayer, found on p. iii.

DISMISSAL

Go forth, accepting God's loving embrace,
relinquishing any resentment you may have
for the grace God gives to others,
and claiming the inheritance that is yours as God's child.
Amen.