

Jan 11, 2026



# Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks  
Baptist Church**  
Grand Prairie, Texas

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## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

When we heed God's gentle yet firm prompting to repent, He'll forgive us and cleanse us from all our sins (1 John 1:9)

### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Jesus, You died on the cross so I'd be able to live in harmony with You and the Father. May I accept Your gift of love as I speak truthfully

### SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the Lord your God, For He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm

(Joel 2:13 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 14, 2022)

## Series: Enduring Beliefs of the Church

### UNIT 2: Grace and Reconciliation

#### NEXT WEEK

Prayer and Humility  
(Gen 18:25-27; Luke 18:9-14;  
1 John 5:14-15)

## Repentance and Faith Luke 15:11-24; Acts 2:38-39

### Lesson Background and Introduction

In Luke 15, tax collectors and sinners gather to hear Jesus. Nearby, Pharisees, adherents of the Law of Moses and their traditions, murmur their disapproval (compare Mark 7:1-8). This setting underscores the meal-sharing tradition in first-century Judaism as a sign of acceptance (see Mark 2:16; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; Galatians 2:11-14). Jesus' use of parables was a teaching method and a profound way to convey spiritual truths. These parables, often simple earthly narratives, were vehicles for deep spiritual meanings. Figurative language, in which "this" stands for "that," predominates in parables. A failure to recognize figurative language is to repeat the errors of Jesus' disciples and the Pharisees (Matthew 16:5-12; Mark 7:18; John 10:6; etc.). Acts 2 depicts Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came and filled believers, causing many to speak in foreign tongues (Acts 2:1-12). In Acts 2:14-39, Peter addresses the Jews gathered to behold this miraculous sight, sharing the good news of Jesus. Peter quotes an Old Testament prophecy stating that God's Spirit would be poured out on "all people" (2:17; Joel 2:28), and that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord" will be saved (Acts 2:21; Joel 2:32). While Peter likely did not have Gentiles in mind yet, as this was prior to his vision and encounter with Cornelius (see Acts 10), he perhaps meant at least that God's Spirit would not be limited to prophets, priests, and kings. It is possible that Luke had the Gentiles in mind while writing this account, perhaps showing that just as Jesus' followers are charged to take the gospel to Jerusalem, Samaria, and the rest of the world (1:8), so would God's Spirit be given to all those he calls and who turn to him in faith.

The two segments of today's lesson share a common element of God's love for and inclusion of those once far off. Jesus' parable in Luke 15:11-32 emphasizes the joy over the repentant return of the wayward. The prodigal son represents the tax collectors and sinners who gathered to hear Jesus speak (Luke 15:1). The elder brother (not considered in today's texts, see Luke 15:25-30) represents the attitude of Jesus' opponents, the Pharisees and teachers of the law (15:2). Acts 2:38-39 communicates a similar theme, calling for repentance, expressing what the repentant shall receive. Though initially addressing Jews, this passage (in light of the rest of Scripture) points toward the inclusion of the Gentiles to come. The message of Acts 2:38-39 is relevant to those who had departed and returned as well as to those who had always been far off until first being brought near. In churches everywhere, individuals step into a congregation for the first time, while others return after a lengthy absence. God greets each one with a welcoming embrace, and there is jubilation in heaven for every soul that repents. In the parable, God is depicted as the father, and those of us who have remained in the church are invited to join our heavenly Father in welcoming the repentant with open arms as well. When we see the prodigal return, or the unbeliever come to faith for the first time, may we be compelled by our Father's love to offer them a seat at the table and welcome them home as our brother or sister in Christ!

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

## NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

### **The Sin - Rebellion (15:11-13)**

*Rebellion usually starts with impatience (11-12)*

Impatience for wanting what we don't have (James 4:2)

Impatience because we expect great miracles when simple things will help (2 Kings 5:11-12)

Impatience for what we call fairness (Luke 9:54)

Impatience to do what we want and disregarding God's priority (Luke 10:40)

*Rebellion thrives on thinking we know what's best for us (12)*

Youthful thinking and decision making sometimes leads us to rebellion (Ps 25:7)

Rebellion by trying to follow the desires of our heart (Eccl 11:9)

Rebellion through arrogance (Deut 1:43)

Rebellion through following our corrupt and sinful nature (2 Peter 2:10)

Rebellion through trying to run from God (Jonah 1:1-3)

*Rebellion ends in loss (13)*

Loss of life and possessions (Num 16:30)

Loss of forgiveness (Ex 23:20-21)

Loss of God's intimacy (Isa 63:10)

Loss of God's blessings (Lev 26:14-20)

### **The Repentance - Coming To Our Senses (15:14-19)**

*Repentance begins with an unfulfilled need (14-15)*

The need to clear ourselves of guilt (2 Cor. 7:11)

The need to find satisfaction (Amos 4:6)

The need to enjoy the fruits of our labor (Haggai 1:6)

*Repentance involves circumstances that causes us to rethink our situation (16-17)*

Rethinking our decisions that got us in the situation (Jonah 2:7-10)

Rethinking our attitude of pride (Job 40:1-5)

Rethinking our understanding of who God is (Acts 9:3-6)

*Repentance results in a humbled changed mind (18-19)*

Humbled by seeing our weakness (Luke 22:59-62)

Humbled by being made to feel ashamed (2 Thess 3:14-15)

Humbled by knowing that God's grace is sufficient (2 Cor 12:7-10)

Humbled by a changed lifestyle and service (Philem 10-16)

### **The Forgiveness - An Accepting Father (15:20-24)**

*Forgiveness starts with God's compassion (20)*

Compassion that resulted in being made alive in Christ (Eph 2:4-5)

Compassion because God is slow to anger and abounds in love (Psalm 86:15)

Compassion that God longs to provide (Isaiah 30:18)

Compassion that resulted in not being consumed (Lam. 3:22)

Compassion that results from God's unfailing love (Lam. 3:32)

Compassion that causes God to relent from what we deserve (Joel 2:13)

Compassion that causes God to ensure that His elect will survive (Matt 24:22)

Compassion that allows Jesus to be a sympathetic mediator (Heb 4:15)

*Forgiveness involves confession (21)*

Confession that confirms guilt (1 Chron. 21:8)

Confession that agrees with God's view (Psalm 32:5)

*Forgiveness results in rebirth and joy (22-24)*

The blessings of a Spiritual Life (Isa 61:10)

The delights of God's word (Jer 15:16)

Desire to know and understand God's word (Acts 8:5-6)

Joy of reconciliation (Rom 5:11)

### **Faith through the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39)**

*Baptism for the remission of sins (38)*

Baptism that was commanded (Matt 28:19)

Baptism into one Spirit (1 Cor 12:13)

Baptism and clothed with Jesus (Gal 3:27)

Baptism that results in a good conscience toward God (1 Peter 3:21)

*Promise of the Holy Spirit (39)*

Promise of the Holy Spirit that confirms we are not our own (1 Cor 6:19)

Promise of the Holy Spirit that is the power to obey God (Ezek 36:27)

Promise of the Holy Spirit that provides spiritual life (Rom 8:11)

Promise of the Holy Spirit that guides us in truth (John 16:13)