



# AT THE MOVIES

## GROUPS STUDY GUIDE

FEBRUARY 9 & 10

### MAIN IDEA

God is our Abba, Father, who deeply loves you, wants you to know that, and live out of that truth.

### WELCOME 10 MINUTES

If you have children, how would you describe the love you have for them? If you don't have children, how have you seen the way your parents love you?

### WORSHIP 10 MINUTES

As we lift our eyes up to God before we jump into our study, what's something God has shown you recently? Maybe it's through reading your Bible, in prayer time, during a time of worship, or reading a Christian book. It's profoundly impactful to constantly be re-connecting with God and sometimes it's a rich blessing to share with others what God is teaching or showing you. Let's spend some time sharing just that with one another.

### WORD 35 MINUTES

1. This week we watched a movie about a lost son finding his mother after 25 years. While the story may be a little different, Jesus tells another story about two sons, one who runs away, and found his way home. It is probably a familiar story for many, but hopefully the power of the story never becomes stale to us. Read *Luke 15:11-32*.
2. There are so many reflections we can take from this story. What is a reflection you have after reading it today?
3. Verses 20-24 show us the response of the father in this story. Running and baring your legs in ancient Middle Eastern culture was a shameful thing. A ring placed on a finger by someone's patriarch was a symbol of being brought into a family. The fattened calf was a saved for a special occasion. What do these things and the rest of this passage tell us about God's love for his lost son?

4. Verses 25-32 show the response of the older brother and how his father shows him what he sees. The older son thought that his father's love should have the prerequisite of obedience and hard work. What does the father's response reveal about his heart? Does his answer speak to you in some way?
5. Read *Romans 8:15-23*. How many times do you see words like "son" or "children"? How does this language pertain to us?
6. What does our adoption as children of God mean for us? What is our inheritance? What are we freed from? (Dig a little deeper than just "heaven" or "sin"; what does this look like in our lives?)
7. What does our adoption as children of God mean for the world? What will we bring to creation and the people around us according to this passage?
8. At the beginning of the *Luke 15* story, the prodigal son was guilty of taking for granted the benefits of what his father does for him. He took being his son for granted. Do you sometimes find yourself doing the same with God?

### WORKS 5 MINUTES

1. **Prayer Challenge:** Say the Lord's Prayer (*Matthew 6:9-13*) every day this week. Spend a couple minutes thinking about the words of this prayer in light of speaking to your "Father in Heaven." Let your heart be stirred as though you are a child in front of your heavenly father.

2. **Reading Challenge:** Read the book of *1 John* this week. When the author, the apostle John, wrote this, he called the recipients of the letter "children". He wasn't being condescending, but rather speaking to younger believers in a fatherly way. Let his words bless you as a child of God this week.