

BROKEN TOGETHER

JOURNEY WAYPOINTS

January 19–25, 2025

A stop along the journey to study, share, and support one another while we learn the way of Jesus.

This Week's Big Idea

Rejecting our rightful place in the family of God leads to rebellion, isolation and despair.

Scripture & Study

KEY TEXT: Luke 15:13-19 [Click here to access this week's scriptures](#)

"How did it get to this point?" "Why did this happen to me?" "What can I do to fix my situation?" We can only imagine the multitude of questions that the despairing son was asking himself as he watched pigs eating food that humans could not digest.

After quickly selling all that his father had given him (likely at prices far below their true value), the younger son turned his back on his family and community and headed out into the world to "make his own way." He rejected the relationships that he had been given by God, and then tried to use his resources to buy new ones. And he probably had fun for a short time. Yet the result of the younger son's journey into a "far country" created not only physical separation but also emotional, social, and spiritual isolation. His reckless decisions led him into profound loneliness and despair - disconnected from God and others. He was alone; no one was present to offer comfort or care.

Genesis 2:18 reminds us that we were created for relationship: "It is not good for man to be alone." Psalm 68:5-6 proclaims that God "sets the lonely in families," offering restoration and hope to those who are isolated. Similarly, John 15:12-13 highlights Jesus' command to love one another sacrificially, underscoring the importance of restoring broken relationships.

Loneliness is a pervasive issue in our world today. A recent study found that 66% of Americans feel lonely, with the Surgeon General highlighting loneliness as a serious threat to physical and mental health. However, God's design for covenant relationships offers healing and renewal. Covenant partnership is not easy - it is easier to "block" those who challenge us, but the joy and growth of community accountability is fruit that endures. Like the compassionate father, we are called to be those who keep our eyes open, looking for those who are needing covenant relationship and belonging. No one is too far gone to experience restoration.

Discussion Questions:

- How does the story of the Prodigal Son deepen your understanding of the loneliness that can come from breaking covenant relationships?
- When have you felt spiritually, socially, or emotionally isolated? How did you experience God's presence or the support of others during that time?
- What practical steps can you take to extend covenantal love to someone who feels rejected or alone?

Apply it:

- **Reflect:** Reflect on any relationships in your life that may be marked by brokenness or distance. Pray for wisdom and courage to take steps toward reconciliation.
- **Pray:** Meditate on Psalm 68:4-6 and thank God for being the One who restores and places the lonely in families. Ask for His guidance in building covenant relationships.
- **Act:** Reach out to someone in your life who may be struggling with loneliness. Offer a listening ear, an encouraging word, or a simple act of kindness that reminds them they are seen and valued.