

## WHAT IF....

**Read Luke 15:11-32**

5th Sunday of Lent, March 18, 2018

Somehow, by the grace of God, the prodigal son “came to himself” and realized that the only way he was going to survive was to go home. Some might say he hit bottom and had nowhere else to go. When he was still a long way off, his father ran out to meet his long-lost son and invited him back into the family.

Today, once lost sons and daughters are being found and coming home. They are detoxing from opioids and completing rehabilitation programs. At this point in their life they desperately need our love and support as they begin their life long journey of recovery. We do not know what happened to Jesus’ prodigal son the day after the homecoming celebration. Did he live happily ever after at home or did he, for whatever reason, leave home again?

Today when you fast, pray, listen and respond ask God to show you how you can help support, encourage, and love those struggling every day in recovery in our neighborhood. Ask God to show you where they are and how we can get to know them by name. Ask God to show you how to walk beside a person who is in recovery so they will know they are welcome in our church family.

It is not enough to open our church doors and hope that the prodigal sons and daughters will come in and stay. We must leave our sanctuaries and find these persons while they are “still a long ways off” and walk with them all the way home...step by step.

**Prayer:** Living God, equip us to find the prodigal sons and daughters while they are “still a long ways off” and walk with them all the way home...step by step. Amen.

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