



## Deeper Application Message Guide

"Family Life Live"  
Speaker: Pastor Troy Meyers  
Week of May 9, 2010

### Getting Started

- 1) If you were asked "Are you a patient person?" how would you respond? Give the reasons for your response.
  
- 2) Most of us have a bias toward being either a *bleeding heart* or a *strict disciplinarian*.
  - a) Which one most characterized the home you grew up in?
  
  - b) Which do you tend toward in your relationships with others?
  
- 3) This week at Family Life Live the theme was "patience" and how God is patient with us, and how we need to be patient with others.
  - a) When things do go the way you expect how do you typically respond?
  
- 4) In your own words define the word "patience".
  - a) According to your definition, would those around you (family, friends, coworkers, etc.) say you exercise patience? Explain.

### Into the Bible

- 5) Read **Luke 15:11-32** twice through (use different versions)

If you had to identify with just one of the three individuals in this parable ( the father, the young prodigal, or the older brother), who would you be and why?

- 6) Imagine for a moment that you were the rebellious son in the parable. How do you think you would have felt when you saw your father running to meet you on your way home?
  - a) Read **verse 28-30** again  
What was the focus of the older brother and how did it hinder his ability to have patience and compassion for his younger brother?
  
  - b) Was the father exercising patience with both sons or just the prodigal?  
Explain reasons for your answer.

### Digging Deeper

- 7) When faced with a prodigal in your life (assuming that the prodigal son can represent a family member, a friend, a coworker, or a social outcast), which of the four ways below do you come by most naturally?
  - 1) When they insist on leaving...let them leave.
  - 2) When things get tough...let them hit bottom.
  - 3) When they come back...run to greet them.
  - 4) They must make amends...then I will accept them.  
- b) Which is the hardest to do for you?
  
- c) Is there anything you need to do as a result of what you've learned?