

# FATHERLESS

## GOAL

This session invites us into the perspective of the younger son in the Parable of the Prodigal Son so we can experience God’s love and mercy in the places where we have been disappointed or let down by sin and the pursuit of something “more” outside of God the Father’s love.

## ENGAGE

### CHECK-IN

Begin the group by asking how everyone is doing. A couple of ways to start this conversation:

- What is one high point and one low point from the past week?
- Did anything big happen? What was it?
- How are you feeling today and what is contributing to that?

### PICTIONARY WITH A TWIST

Supplies: Paper or white board, drawing utensils or dry erase marker, timer

Set Up: Place words or phrases from the list below onto note cards, split the group into two teams, set up the paper or white board where each team will be able to see what is being drawn.

Use the following list as an example of phrases, add to it as you see fit:

Skyscraper	Snowflake
Cattle	Rainbow
Carpet	Ferris Wheel
Wood	Dentist
Cave	Rake
Elbow	Ruby

- A member of team one volunteers to go first and picks up a note card and has a few seconds to examine the word.
- On “go” the player begins and has 60 seconds to draw clues so that their team guesses what was on their card. The player cannot use verbal or physical clues.
- If the team guesses correctly in the 60 seconds they receive a point and team two has a turn.
- Play until every player on both teams has a turn to go. The team at the end with the most points wins.

### SUGGESTION

To add a twist to this game have each player use only their non-dominant hand to draw or spin the player around in circles before they have to draw. To make it even more challenging blind fold the player before they draw.

## REFLECT

Begin by reading Luke 15:11-24. Then play the video [“Fatherless”](#) found online via the Connect Resources website.

## RESPOND

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these questions to get a discussion started with the group. Don’t worry about trying to get through them all - if one question sparks a great discussion, go with it.

- Where are places that people have experienced disappointment because of COVID19? Where have you experienced disappointment over the past couple of months?
- When have you taken something for granted and then realized how much you needed it?
- Have you ever been lost or found yourself in a place far from your home? What was that experience like?
- When have you received forgiveness, mercy or the healing of a relationship? What did that feel like? How do you experience that with God?

### CLOSING PRAYER

End by praying together the following prayer attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola:

*O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things. Amen.*