

We're back with a devotional and our latest news.



Though I love teaching our students to weld, my favorite part of each day is right after lunch when I open the Bible with our students. Last week in our Bible time, we discussed the story in **Luke 15** of the Prodigal Son. It seemed to really resonate with many of the students, which isn't surprising since the Bible teaches that all of us have been a prodigal child at some point in our life.

Now even though it is perhaps the most famous parable out of Jesus' 39 parables that we have recorded in the Bible, when I asked the students how many of them had heard of the story of the Prodigal Son only about 20% of the hands went up. In fact, in one of the classes, not a single hand was raised. But that's ok. It reminds us of what a wonderful outreach opportunity we have each day at Reignite Hope—most of our students are not saved and don't attend a church.

So, this is one of many parables in which Jesus is telling an imaginary story to teach us what God is like. In the story, Jesus says that there was a Father (who represents God) and he had two sons (who represent us!). Then one day the younger son wanted to leave and live his life his way instead of the way his father wanted him to live, so he demanded that his father give him his inheritance right then rather wait until his father passed away. Imagine for a moment how you'd feel if one of your children did that? How would you react?

Well, as crushing as that must have been, the father graciously gave him his inheritance and let him go his own way. Now I suppose that there might not be

a worse pain than having your child wanting nothing to do with you.

So the younger son leaves with his inheritance and moves to a faraway country where he proceeds to spend all of his money living a reckless (prodigal) lifestyle. Then, being broke and suffering from hunger, he comes to his senses and realizes what a terrible decision he had made to leave his father. So he decides to turn around and head home and ask his father to take him back, but not as a son, which he knows he no longer deserves, but to just be one of his father's hired hands. That, by the way, is a beautiful illustration of what the Bible calls repentance. The original Greek word (metanoia) means to change your mind. In other words, you thought you were right, but now see that you were wrong. You thought you were heading in the right direction, but now you change your mind and you turn around.

Now we can only imagine the anxiety he must have felt during that long journey back home wondering if his father would even take him back. But we read that before he even made it home his father saw him a long way off and ran to embrace his son and kiss him.

Imagine the joy the father in this story, or any parent for that matter, would have to see their child turn around and head in the right direction. And we've seen this joy in countless moms and dads down through the years at Reignite Hope as they see their child now on the road to a great career and on the road leading toward God instead of away from Him. Even now as Mother's Day is approaching, I think of all the moms of our current students and the joy and excitement they are experiencing to have their child in our program and heading in the right direction.

As we continued our discussion in class, we considered the many lessons that come out of this famous story that Jesus told. One is that God will not violate our will. He will let us go our own way if that is what we desire, but He is also always watching and wanting us to turn around. You can just picture the father in this story standing outside every day looking down the road and wondering, hoping, is this the day that he would see his son coming back home.

I also asked the students to reflect on whether someone has gone prodigal on them? Maybe someone who has hurt them in some way or walked out of their life? Then I asked if they would be willing to be like the father in the story and forgive instead of holding it against them? Because the truth is that when it comes to God, our heavenly Father, we've all lived a prodigal life. And it doesn't matter whether you've lived a reckless life and ended broke and homeless like the son in the story or you've simply lived a life where you've given no thought to God at all and lived as though He didn't even exist. In either case, you're just as lost and just as far from God. But, in either case, all you have to do is turn around and there you will find Him waiting to forgive you and embrace you!

Finally, I'd ask those reading this to consider how this important story applies to you. Jesus, on another occasion, taught that there are only two roads in life—a narrow road that leads to eternal life and a wide road that leads to destruction (**Matthew 7:13-14**). Which road are you on? The one leading toward God or the one leading away from Him and ultimately to destruction? Have you turned around, put your trust in Jesus and asked God for forgiveness or are you still going your own way? And is there anyone in your life who has gone prodigal on you, but if they turned around, would you be willing to forgive them and embrace them?

Well I hope that this story has encouraged you. I can't even explain to how exciting is for me to get to share the good news with our students each day that no matter who they are or what their background is or how they've lived their life, there is a heavenly Father who is waiting to embrace them and forgive them if they will just turn around!

And to all of the moms---**Happy Mother's Day!!**



First Mobile Classes Underway

On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, you can find our Mobile Training Center in Rolling Hills Covenant Church's parking lot teaching the very employable skill of welding to the residents of Harbor Hills. Pictured above is our Tuesday class.

We are thrilled to have Dan and Jan Charlin back as instructors. Thanks to them, Steve is able to devote his time to mobile training while Dan and Jan take over the Tuesday, Wednesday classes at the Gardena school. We literally couldn't have pulled off consecutive classes in Gardena and on the road without them. God's perfect timing made them available on the date of our first mobile class.

Debbie Paul, who's been gracious to write several articles about ReIGNITE Hope for the local papers, just graced us with another article about the mobile training. The article appeared in the Peninsula PV News. You can see the full article [here](#). Thank you so much Debbie for using your writing talent to bless ReIGNITE Hope.



Inside the Trailer

One of our students, Rafael Mondragon, is welding inside the trailer. The trailer is outfitted with eight individual welding stations. At full strength, we can train 24 students per class. Due to COVID, we've limited class size to 8 for the safety of our students and staff.

“

Thank you for all your faithful prayers and support. If Jesus were here, he would go where the lost are and it's our heart's desire to do the same with the 18-wheeler. Please pray for the mobile training center to reach as many lives as possible.

I'll keep you all updated and if you would like to contact me I can be reached by email at steve@reignitehope.com or by phone at (310) [847-0593](tel:847-0593). Please let me know if there is any way that I can be praying for you during these challenging days in which we are living.

Happy Mother's Day

Love you All,

Impact Lives! Donate Now.

ReIGNITE Hope

14333 S. Figueroa St.
Gardena, CA 90248



You received this email because you are one of our precious donors. ReIGNITE Hope couldn't happen without donors like you.

[Unsubscribe](#)

mailer lite