



**My Favorite Story // Father's Day 2018**  
Jeremiah Ramer // "My Father, My Hero"

**INTRODUCTION:** Jeremiah continued the series, My Favorite Story, this Father's Day weekend with Jesus' story of the prodigal son in Luke chapter 15. We can learn a lot about the characteristics of good fathers from the father in Jesus' story. The traits we see in the father are transferrable to every one of us and apply to all of our earthly relationships as well. Most of all, Jesus intends for us to recognize God's heart for us as His children of the father in the story. Our key takeaway from this weekend is that **Good Fathers are a picture of God Our Father.**

**WARMING UP:** Take 1-2 minutes to share your greatest memory of your father with the group. Not everyone has a positive experience with fatherhood, and if that's you, share about someone else who at one point invested in you and how that impacted your life.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Read Luke 15:11-32. Listen for and list any attributes you can pick out about the father in the story.
2. Based on the message, what do you believe determines what kind of person or parent you are or you will become?
3. Jeremiah highlighted 5 characteristics of good fathers in Jesus' story. The first was that "Good fathers are overwhelmingly generous." Discuss the father's generosity in the story; how is this a picture of God's generosity toward us?
4. The second characteristic of a good father is that "Good fathers are affectionate toward their children." Discuss the father's affection in the story; how is this a picture of God's affection toward us?
5. The father not only showers his son with affection to show him his love, but he also accomplishes some other significant things for his son; what are those things?
6. The third characteristic is that "Good fathers never stop caring for their children." Discuss how you see this in the father in Jesus' story; how is this a picture of God's concern and care for us?
7. The fourth characteristic is that "Good fathers extend grace." Discuss the father's grace in the story; how is this a picture of God's grace toward us?
8. Why should it have been difficult for the father to extend grace in the story? What can we learn about the way we should extend grace from the Father?
9. The fifth characteristic is that "Good fathers love unconditionally." Discuss the father's unconditional love in the story; how is this a picture of God's unconditional love for us?

**PRAY ABOUT IT:** No matter what kind of parents we had, we get to decide what kind of people or parents we are. If God is Father to the fatherless, then even those of us without the example of good fathers or parents can look to the example of God our Father as the Good Father. Pray that we will exemplify the characteristics of the father in this story to not only our children and grandchildren, but to all those that God places in our path.