

**FASTING AND PRAYER DAY  
SABBATH 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

***Prepared by Pastor Andre PHESOR – Family Life Ministries Director, IOUC***

**INTRODUCTION**

For our reflection on this Sabbath afternoon July 4, 2015, we invite you to continue to meditate in a spirit of prayer on the 2<sup>nd</sup> return of Jesus, from the parable of the prodigal son that we find in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15, and then answer to some questions in group.

Each group will appoint a clerk who will give a brief report of the lessons that have been learned in the group.

Some quotations from Ellen G. White that may help you in your exchanges in group. These are from the book Christ's Object Lessons.

- *“Whatever the appearance may be, every life centered in self is squandered. Whoever attempts to live apart from God is wasting his substance. He is squandering the precious years, squandering the powers of mind and heart and soul, and working to make himself bankrupt for eternity. The man who separates from God that he may serve himself, is the slave of mammon.”*
- *“The love of God still yearns over the one who has chosen to separate from Him, and He sets in operation influences to bring him back to the Father's house.”*
- *“Miserable as he was, the prodigal found hope in the conviction of his father's love. It was that love which was drawing him toward home. So it is the assurance of God's love that constrains the sinner to return to God.”*
- *“In the parable there is no taunting, no casting up to the prodigal of his evil course. The son feels that the past is forgiven and forgotten, blotted out forever.”*
- *“This elder brother has not been sharing in his father's anxiety and watching for the one that was lost. He shares not, therefore, in the father's joy at the wanderer's return.”*

## **FIRST PART**

**Praise and worship** : 10 mins  
**Opening prayer** : 1 min  
**Bible reading – Luke 15: 11-32** : 5 mins  
**Prayer – Praises to God only** : 2 mins  
**E.G White's quotations reading** : 2 mins

### **Questions/Answers in group (15 mins)**

- Is this parable related somehow to the return of Jesus?
- What did it tell us about the father?
- What what can we say about his attitude?

### **Prayer time in group (12 mins)**

Pray for the following requests:

- To have a personal prayer life
- The coming back of those who have left the church
- The church leaders and their home (pastors, elders, departmental, etc...)

**Song** : 3 mins

**Testimonies** : 5 mins

(thanksgiving, an experience with God during the week, an answered request, etc...)

**PAUSE**

## **SECOND PART**

**Praise and worship** : 10 mins  
**Opening prayer** : 1 min  
**Bible reading – Luke 15: 12-20** : 5 mins  
**Prayer – Confession & Repentance** : 2 mins

### **Questions/Answers in group (15 mins)**

- What does the parable tell us about the younger son?
- What can we learn from his attitude?
- To what commitment has his experience led you to?

### **Prayer time in group (12 mins)**

Pray for the following requests:

- The lonely persons of our churches
- The sick (physically and spiritually)
- The families of our church (couples, parents, children, youth)

**Song** : 3 mins

**Testimonies** : 5 mins

(thanksgiving, an experience with God during the week, an answered request, etc...)

**PAUSE**

### **THIRD PART**

**Praise and worship** : 10 mins

**Opening prayer** : 1 min

**Bible reading – Luke 15: 25-32** : 5 mins

**Prayer – Thanksgiving only** : 2 mins

#### **Questions/Answers in group (15 mins)**

- What does the parable tell us about the elder son?
- What can we learn from his attitude?
- To what commitment has his experience led you to?

#### **Prayer time in group (12 mins)**

Pray for the following requests:

- An authentic revival of each member
- The individual implication for the salvation of souls – 1 member 1 soul

**Song** : 3 mins

**Testimonies** : 5 mins

(thanksgiving, an experience with God during the week, an answered request, etc...)

**PAUSE**