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## Part 4 - Ministering to the prodigal's family

- **DISCUSS:** Comment on the following “Don’t’s” in ministering to a prodigal’s family and give examples of each
  - Ask painful questions
  - Make glib statements
- **DISCUSS:** Comment on the following “Do’s” in ministering to a prodigal’s family and give examples of each
  - Offer prayers
  - Express empathy
  - Understand that people deal with these things differently
  - Turn the situation over to the Lord
  - Remain confident in our prodigal God.
- **APPLY:** How might you apply Romans 8:28 in ministering to a prodigal or a prodigal’s family.
- **NOTES:**



Video Discussion Guide  
www.menofhisword.org

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# Ministering to the prodigal



Pastor Becker, from the standpoint of personal experience, addresses the painful situation of a child or loved one who has “abandoned” us and provides concrete advice in how to minister to both the prodigal and his or her family.

**Pastor Bruce Becker**

2015 Conference Topic  
January 31, 2015



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## Part 1 - Background

- **QUEUE UP:** “Ministering to the prodigal” under Downloads at <http://www.menofhisword.org> , and play Part 1

- **DEFINITIONS:**

What is the meaning of the word “prodigal”?

What does each type of “abandonment” mean or refer to?

- **DISCUSS:** How does the parable of the two lost sons recorded in Luke 15:11-32 serve as an essential background for this topic?

- **NOTES:**



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## Part 2 - Bruce’s story

- **DISCUSS:** Why is it so valuable to hear someone relate such a painful story?
- **DISCUSS:** Can you think of Scriptural parallel’s to Bruce’s story?
- **APPLY:** Are there any here who would like to share their story?

- **NOTES:**



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## Part 3 - Ministering to the prodigal

- **DISCUSS:** Why is prayer such a powerful tool in our ministering to the prodigal?
- **DISCUSS:** Comment on the importance of each of these points:
  - Show unconditional love
  - Keep the door open
  - Address the issues
  - Don’t beat yourself up or blame yourself
  - Look for a support group

- **NOTES:**