

# Our GOOD and LOVING Father ... the “3-R’s”

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## Repent + Rejoice + Receive

### **Good Father**

Here is a true statement ... we are men, but we are also **sons**. Sons of an earthly father. Maybe you had a good dad; who cared for you, loved you for being you and blessed you as his son! Or, maybe your father was; absent, oppressive, hurtful, not loving, etc.. Either way, you are still a son of an earthly father. You did not select your dad. You dad was selected for you. Have you thought about this recently? Have you considered that you are also the son of the Heavenly Father? You and I have been adopted as sons by our Heavenly Father! Read verse 4 below from Ephesians. The definition of sonship is: The Greek word for adoption to sonship is a legal term referring to the full legal standing of an adopted male heir in Roman culture.

### **Ephesians 1** (NIV)

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 **For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—** 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he[d] made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

### **Watch and LISTEN:**

‘Good Good Father’ – Worship From Casting Crowns on GodTube:

[http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=YL6WKWNX&utm\\_source=GodTube%20Music%20Videos&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=01/07/2016](http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=YL6WKWNX&utm_source=GodTube%20Music%20Videos&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=01/07/2016)

### **Scripture Reflection:**

1. Read **Luke 15: 1-7** ... out loud. Then ask; where *do you see the 3 R’s*?
2. Read **Luke 15: 8-10** ... out loud. Then ask; where *do you see the 3 R’s*? (See below: **REPENT**)
3. Read **Luke 15: 11-24** ... *look again at these verses... do you see the 3 R’s*?
  - a. v20-21 ... **Repent**
  - b. v20 ... “He ran to his son. Threw his arms around him and kissed him” ...**Rejoice**
  - c. v22-24 ... *best robe, ring, sandals, fattened calf, feast and celebrate!* ...**Receive**

### **WORK ROUND: Ask these questions to the men?**

4. Think. Remember. When have **you experienced** the **love of the “GOOD FATHER” in your life?**

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***IMPORTANT Music:*** IN the background ... this SONG should be playing. ***“Good Good Father”*** by Chris Tomlin  
(After the song)

Now, share your answer with another man in the room. Then, pray with one another after each man has shared their response to point #4 above.

5. Break into groups of 4-men. Each man will do work and select a facilitator for these questions;
6. In YOUR faith life experience, when have you personally experienced the **3-R’s (Repent + Rejoice + Receive)?** Write your response below;

- a. **Repented from what behavior or action?** Note: if you are struggling to remember something, please read Luke 15: 32. Key words: *“was dead and is alive again –or- was lost and is found”*

(YOUR response)

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- b. **Rejoice ... joy-Joy-JOY from Heaven to you!** How did Heaven rejoice with you? How did you feel or experience this JOY? Was this joy shared with others (wife, friends, pastor, children, others?)? Specifically, recall details of “celebration”...

(YOUR response)

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- c. **Receive ...** Our Father’s LOVE is so good, that it changes us (me). Now that you have received, how are you different?

(YOUR response)

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### *What does **REPENT** mean?*

You may be surprised to learn the word **repent** in the Greek New Testament simply means to **turn around**. It was a military term that described a soldier marching in one direction and then doing an about-face. And when it’s used in a spiritual sense, it means to change your mind.

So really, repent is a perfect description of what happens when you come to Christ. You no longer reject Christ, but now you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. You do a spiritual about-face, which in turn changes.

So should you be afraid of the word repent? No! **Instead, embrace the idea of doing a spiritual about-face, turning to Christ and away from sin in your life!**

Taken from “What Does it Mean to ‘Repent’?” from Power Point Ministries

From: Jack Graham

<http://www.jesus.org/following-jesus/repentance-faith-and-salvation/what-does-it-mean-to-repent.html>

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