Luke 15:20-22 "So he set out and came to his father. But when he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet;"

## DISCOVER

1. What is the greatest responsibility of a father? Compare your response to the Father's greatest hope for humans.

2. What sources, good and bad, are offered to young men in preparation for them to become fathers? How should the church approach their role in teaching Godly parenting and grandparenting?

3. Daughters often marry a man that is much like their father. How should manhood be modeled so that our daughters may marry well?

4. How can a single or divorced father continue to influence the lives of their children in a godly manner? Where can a widow or divorced woman turn to bring a godly man into the lives of their children?

## EXPLORE

1. Read Luke 15:11-24. How does this relate to our relationship with God? Have you experienced the father role for a prodigal son or daughter? Fathers or mothers, if you still have a prodigal child then how can you endure without losing hope?

2. Read Proverbs 14:26. How can parents provide a place of refuge for their children or others in their realm of influence? Where, besides at home, can places of refuge be provided for children?

3. Read Psalms 37:23. If a man's steps are to be ordered by the Lord, what does that look like for a father? How can wives lift up their husbands and inspire them as fathers?

## EXPERIENCE

 If you have made unreconciled mistakes as a father, how should you move forward? Are there actions to take that would lead to healing?
Where can fathers go to find rest or guidance? If you know a father who needs rest or guidance then offer choices for them that are uplifting.
Ladies, describe something that you observe between your children and their dad that brings you joy.

## PRAY

Pray...For those you call to be fathers, please open our eyes so that we can see your order for manhood and fatherhood. When fathers fail, please step in to protect the children. We pray for a revival of godly men in this world. Please equip us to be good fathers and encourage those who carry the joy and burden of fatherhood. We love you Abba Father.

Action... Choose someone you care about and encourage them in their role as a father or grandfather. Be specific about the evidence of good work you have observed.

Auburn Grace Community Church – June 19th, 2022