

January 2019



With Christ in our hearts, together
we grow

Welcome to our 'Values' assembly



*A value is a principle that
guides behaviour*

In JANUARY we will be exploring the
value of

Compassion



Who shows compassion?



Mother Teresa



Malala Yousafzai



Lady Dianna



Martin Luther King



Florence Nightingale



Queen Elizabeth and
Duke of Edinburgh

The Prodigal Son

What does "prodigal" mean?

It's basic meaning is "wasteful"--particularly with regard to money.

Jesus tells the story of a man who has two sons. The younger son asks his father to give him his portion of the family estate as an early inheritance.

Once received, the son promptly sets off on a long journey to a distant land and begins to waste his fortune on enjoying himself. When the money runs out, a severe famine hits the country and the son finds himself in dire circumstances. He takes a job feeding pigs. He is so destitute that he even longs to eat the food assigned to the pigs. The young man finally comes to his senses, remembering his father. In humility, he recognizes his foolishness, decides to return to his father and ask for forgiveness, compassion and mercy. The father who had been watching and waiting, receives his son back with open arms of compassion and mercy.

He is overjoyed by the return of his lost son! Immediately the father turns to his servants and asks them to prepare a giant feast in celebration. Meanwhile, the older son is not one bit happy when he comes in from working the fields and discovers a party going on to celebrate his younger brother's return. The father tries to dissuade the older brother from his jealous rage explaining, "You are always with me, and everything I have is yours." Typically, a son would receive his inheritance at the time of his father's death. The fact that the younger brother instigated the early division of the family estate showed a rebellious and proud disregard for his father's authority, not to mention a selfish and immature attitude.

Pigs were unclean animals. Jews were not even allowed to touch pigs. When the son took a job feeding pigs, even longing for their food to fill his belly, it reveals that he had fallen as low as he could possibly go. This son represents a person living in rebellion to God. Sometimes we have to hit rock-bottom before we come to our senses and recognize our wrong doings. Who are you in this story? Are you the rebellious son, lost and far from God? Are you selfless and uncaring?

Are you the older son who showed jealousy?

Are you the father who showed compassion and mercy, who took his son back into his home?

Whoever you are, God will welcome you back, regardless of what you have done, so long as you are truly sorry, he will forgive you.

God waits patiently, with loving compassion to restore us when we return to him with humble hearts.

Prayer

Dear Lord

Help us to follow you always and give us
strength to carry on when we are
struggling.

Help us to make the effort to do things
God's way so we can be compassionate
and caring to those we meet in our
everyday lives.

Amen

