

SESSION 8  
**PRODIGAL**  
Parent Letter

**PURPOSE**

**CONTENT OVERVIEW**

Many of us are fascinated by our family stories and history. In fact, it has become increasingly popular to have our DNA tested so we can learn more about our ethnic background and where our ancestors may have lived and migrated from. When we research our family history, it is quite fascinating to learn who in our family may have been war heroes, politicians, or prominent public figures. We can discover where our ancestors worked, how many kids they had, how long they lived, and perhaps uncover some relatives we did not know we had. We are fascinated with this quest for knowledge and insight because of how our past shapes who we are today. Where our ancestors came from, what they endured, and how they overcame trials in their lives are a part of the story of who we are. Similarly, we are a part of a bigger story: God's story.

God's story is our story of salvation. It is a story that began long ago and continues still today. As we make every effort to understand our family history, we should also take the time to understand what God has done for us so we can fully appreciate where we are today. Our story is simple yet complex. It begins with the creation of the world and human beings, who were created in the image and likeness of God. The beginning of our story sets the stage because it tells us who God is and who we are. Throughout the Old Testament, we learn about a variety of people who played important roles in our story. We read about Abraham, Isaac, Moses, Samson, Gideon, and David, to name a few. While very different, all of these people have one thing in common: They were all sinners, ordinary people who were faithful to God.

At the pinnacle of our story of salvation is Jesus. God created humankind and came to Earth to save us from the bondage of sin and death. But Jesus was also sent to Earth to establish the Kingdom of God and invite each person into the Kingdom. Jesus not only provided us with a way to get to heaven someday, but He is also our model of holiness who shows us how to live and love. The more we learn about our story of salvation, the more we understand who we are and how we are to live.

**CONVERSATION STARTERS**

1. What are some interesting parts of our family history? What are your favorite family stories?
2. Why is it important for us to know about the story of salvation history? How does this story affect you?
3. How can we, as a family, more closely follow Jesus' model of holiness?