

## Battlefield 11 – Leader's Guide

1. Why might we believe the lie that God is mean? (If we had an abusive, angry, impatient, or overly-strict parent, we might think God's the same.)
2. Do you believe or have you ever believed that God has a list of rules? Do you believe you'll never be able to please Him? (Answers will vary.)
3. What does the Bible say about God's kindness? (God's full of love, very kind, shows great mercy, and doesn't want to punish anyone.)
4. Give some examples of bad people who were attracted to Jesus. (Tax collectors, prostitutes, outcasts, and sinners were attracted to Jesus.)
5. Why did bad people like Jesus? (Jesus loved and accepted them. He didn't reject them.)
6. Why was it an insult when the younger son in the story asked for his share of the property? (The son was saying he wished the father were dead! He was using the father and rejecting the relationship.)
7. How would most Middle Eastern fathers react to this request? (They would drive their sons out with blows. They would beat them up!)
8. Why would it be hard for the father to give the son his share of the property? (He would probably have to sell his land and would lose status in the community.)
9. Why did the son move to a distant land? (He wanted to be as far away from his father as possible.)
10. What kind of lifestyle did the son have? See Luke 15:13. (He wasted the father's money in wild living. Maybe he held big parties, drank heavily, took drugs, visited prostitutes, and gambled.)
11. Why did he come to his senses and return home? (There was a famine, and he was hungry and suffering. He realized his life was better at home.)
12. What does the story teach about God's personality? (God throws a party for a brat! He's kind and generous to a kid who's wasted all his money.)
13. How are we like the son in the story? How is God like the father? (We reject God, run from him, and don't care about a relationship with Him. God is kind and loving toward us and waits for us to come home.)

