

## Life Isn't Fair

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Look

Life isn't fair. In fact, someone once said, "A fair is a place with rides and cotton candy." Things happen to us, sometimes just randomly and sometimes by the hand of someone else, that don't seem fair to us.

1. Describe a time when something happened to you that you perceived wasn't fair.
2. How did you react?
3. How did you get over it?

### Book Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

This passage begins with the Pharisees whining because life isn't fair and ends with a story from Jesus to stop their whining.

1. What are the Pharisees complaining about – what do they think isn't fair?
2. Do you think this is a reasonable complaint? Why or why not?
3. What does Jesus' parable about the prodigal son teach us about the Pharisees' complaint?
4. What does the parable teach us about God?

### Took

Life isn't fair. But in our relationship with God, that's the good news. God is generous. God's love, God's mercy, God's forgiveness is so abundant that it extends to everyone – to the people who manage to make all the right choices and to the people who never quite seem to get it right.

1. How does it make you feel that people who don't "deserve it" get the same love, mercy, and forgiveness from God as you do?
2. Who might you be withholding love and mercy from because you feel they don't deserve it?
3. How might you let go of our need for "fairness" so that you can find a way to be generous?