



Week Two

Luke. 15:1-2;25-32

General:

- Think about a time you entered someone else's home. What made you feel welcomed? Or what made you feel like you didn't belong?
- In verse 1, sinners and tax collectors draw near to Jesus. In verse 25, the older brother also draws near, but with a different posture. When you draw near to God, what is usually happening inside you? (Joy, duty, resentment, expectation?)
- Pastor Chip suggested the older brother likely assumed the party was for him. Where in your life do you quietly expect recognition, reward, or affirmation from God?
- In verse 2, Jesus is criticized for receiving and eating with sinners. In verse 27, the father receives the younger son back. How does this connection help us understand God's heart?
- Verse 27 says the younger son returned "safe and sound"; a word rooted in shalom (wholeness, restoration). What do you think true restoration looks like beyond simply being forgiven?
- Ken Bailey notes that the older brother's refusal to enter the house is a public insult to his father. In what ways might resentment disguise itself as faithfulness in your life?
- Just as the father ran to the younger son, he also goes out to the older son. What does this teach us about God's pursuit of both outward rebellion and inward self-righteousness?
- When you're frustrated with others, do you ever notice your mind filling in stories about their motives or failures? What does that tendency reveal about your own heart?
- The parable ends without telling us what the older brother chooses. What decision do you feel invited to make after hearing this story?
- Now that we've come to the end of the story, who are you in this parable? Who do you identify with most?

Take Home 1: Will the grace of God be amazing to us or will it be infuriating?

- What does God's grace actually mean to you in everyday life (not just theologically, but practically)?
- Is there anyone in your life whom you believe should have to change before being celebrated?
- What happens inside you when grace disrupts your sense of fairness?
- How does remembering the depth of God's forgiveness toward you reshape how you respond to others?

Take Home 2: What would it look like for us to be a church today that embodied how Jesus received sinners and ate with them?

- We often say "people can belong before they believe." Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
- Do you see your daily life as part of God's mission to reach the lost?
- Where is the line between compromising our faith and creating unnecessary distance from people who don't yet believe? How do you personally discern that line?

Take Home 3: Are we willing to ask an incredibly difficult question: Are we lost on the inside?

- How would you describe your relationship with Jesus? How would you describe your relationship with others?
- Are there places in your life where obedience has slowly turned into obligation?
- In what ways might your Christian life look like the older brother—faithful on the outside, frustrated on the inside?