

CONVERSATION GUIDE

1. Take 5 minutes to discuss last week's sermon over Luke 14: 25-33.

Read Luke 15: 1-3. In this passage, there are two different groups of people who were gathering to hear Jesus speak: the tax collectors and sinners, and the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them," the Pharisees muttered. Little did the Pharisees know that the parable that Jesus was about to teach them was meant just as much for them as the tax collectors and sinners.

READ Luke 15: 11-32

DISCUSS and REFLECT

Jesus uses this parable to describe the "wild living" younger brother and the "angry" and moralistic older brother, and how each of them has distanced themselves from the Father.

- Name a couple things that stuck out to you in this passage. Why did they stick out?
- How does the Father react upon the return of the younger son? What does this reveal about the Father?
- In what ways has the elder brother strayed from the Father? Why is the elder brother's condition just as dangerous?
- Just as the Father invites the elder brother to join in the feast, Jesus ends the parable. Why do you think Jesus ends the story where he does?
- What do you think Jesus was revealing about the grace of God through this parable? How do you think each of the parties mentioned in Luke 15:1-3 reacted upon hearing it?

APPLY

1. Can you see yourself as either the younger brother/sinner or elder brother/Pharisee in this parable? Why is it important to realize this? In what ways does the grace and mercy of the Father humble you? How does this bring you closer to Him?

2. This parable is often called The Parable of The Prodigal Son. The definition of the word prodigal is "to spend recklessly." With this in mind, what is the significance of the feast that the Father invites his sons into? How can this bring hope and meaning into our ordinary lives and point to something greater in the future? (Isaiah 25:6-8)

MEMORIZE

Luke 15:31-32

"My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Suggestions for further reading: *The Prodigal God* – Tim Keller; Isaiah 25:6-8