

LifeGroup Meeting

The Legacy of Being Known 3

"Earning and Deserving"

Get To Know You Question:

What is the funniest or craziest thing you have ever "squandered" money on?

Let's Dig Deeper

Someone read **Luke 15:11-32**. Spend some time and share some key words that spoke out to you while reading. What is it about those words that spoke to you?

The Heart of the Father and the Wanderer (Luke 15:11-24)

1. When you hear that the younger son essentially wished his father dead by demanding the inheritance early, what emotions does that stir in you? Why do you think Jesus began the story in such an extreme way?
2. The younger son "came to himself" at rock bottom. Have you ever had a moment where hitting bottom became the very thing that woke you up spiritually or emotionally? What helped open your eyes in that moment?
3. Jesus describes the younger son as "coming to himself" *before* he begins the journey home to the father (Luke 15:17). How does this moment help you understand what true repentance looks like, especially when compared to guilt driven or performance driven ideas of repentance?
4. The father ran to the son before the son could finish the speech. Where in your life have you expected God to shame you, but instead he embraced you? How does that impact the way you view God today?
5. The father immediately restores the son with the robe, ring, and sandals. What part of your identity in Christ do you still struggle to believe has been fully restored?

The Older Brother and the Trap of Earning and Deserving (Luke 15:25-32).

6. The older brother heard the celebration in the house but stayed angry in the field. Why is it often easier for Christians to work for God than to celebrate what God is doing in others?

7. The older brother defined his relationship to the father through performance (“I have served you... I never disobeyed...”). In what ways have you fallen into a performance based relationship with God without even realizing it?
8. The older brother said, “You never gave me...” How does comparison distort your view of God? Can you identify a time when comparison robbed you of joy?
9. The father reminds the older son, “You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.” What would change in your spiritual life if you began each day believing this was literally true?
10. The older brother could not celebrate his brother’s restoration. What does that reveal about the dangers of self-righteousness in our churches and in our own hearts?

The New Way of Living: Believing and Blessing (Luke 15:31-32).

11. This parable emphasized that most of us live by earning and deserving, but Jesus invites us into believing and blessing. Which mindset do you most naturally gravitate toward? How does that affect your relationships?
12. Jesus says it was “fitting” and “right” to celebrate the one who did wrong but came home. What does this reveal about how God defines right and necessary? How does that challenge your instinctive sense of fairness?
13. If God truly keeps no record of wrongs for those who believe, why do we so easily keep records of wrongs against others? What does that reveal about our understanding of grace?
14. Think of someone in your life who is “in a far country,” spiritually or emotionally. What would blessing them look like this week in a way that reflects the father’s heart?
15. What practical steps could you or your group take to cultivate a culture of blessing, believing, and celebrating?

Close in Prayer.