



The Prideful Son Prodigal (Apr 1)

Series Summary: This three-week series focuses on the characters in the famous Parable of the Prodigal Son. It will examine each character's roles and show how the Gospel comforts those who feel too far gone but also challenges those who think an association with God is equal to truly knowing him.

Big Idea/Question: Do we love God's mercy even when it is directed to somebody else?

Get Them Talking: If someone were throwing a party for you, what is one thing that you would want to do? (Fun Activities, Food to Eat, Friends to Invite, etc.)

Luke 15:25-32 "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' 28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' 31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 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.'"

Have you ever felt like the older son? Have you ever felt like your family, teachers, or

maybe even God isn't treating you fairly?

What is wrong with the mindset of the older son? Shouldn't the father have thrown a party for him instead of the brother? Why did the father celebrate his son that left the family, spent his inheritance and sinned greatly?

Leader Note: The older son was being self-righteous. He was pointing out that the younger brother did not deserve the Father's love and blessing. We can do the same today. We can buy into the lie that we deserve God's love but not somebody else that did something that we think of as worse. We will be unpacking this more in the Large Group message.

How do we fall into the same trap (mindset) the older son did today?

What would you tell the older son in this situation? What does it look like to take that advice?