

Community Group Discussion Questions

“Royal Reception” Luke 15:20-24 Oct. 13, 2018

Getting Started

It's never too late to come back home! The steps to a new beginning require bravery and boldness in accepting fault, but choosing to advance forward...1...Step...at...a...Time..!

If you know you are living apart from God (in a far country of rebellion) in any area of your life, what does the first step of coming home look like for you?

Going Deeper

While you are doing this, know that your heavenly Father is:

- I. The Father Initiates: *“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion and ran”* (Vs. 20)
 - a. Saw Him: Never stopped Looking
 - b. Felt for Him: Never stopped Loving
 - c. Ran to Him: Never stopped Leading.

Notice that the Father didn't chase his son down and try to prevent the son from making mistakes. He let him go, knowing that someday his son would return broken and in need of reconciliation. But while the Father doesn't chase us down, he is looking for us and loving us, and waiting to lead us back into fellowship when we come to our senses. How have you experienced this tender side of God in your life?

II. The Father Intercedes: “*embraced him and kissed him*” (Vs. 20)

- a. With Protection: “Embraced” was to shield. (Duet. 21:18-21)
- b. With Affection: “Kissed” was to demonstrate acceptance.

Even though the younger son had sinned greatly and had scandalized his family’s name, he was still a son, and the Father would not let anyone punish him. Who has stood up for you and taken a stand for you when you have returned from a season of being in a distant land in rebellion? What did that mean to you?

III. The Father Interrupts: *And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. But the father said to his servants* (Vs. 21-22)

- a. Recognizes Repentance: *‘Father, I have sinned* (Vs. 21)
 - i. Invisible Authority: “*against heaven*”
 - ii. Visible Authority: “*before you*”

Key Concept: The younger son’s language shifted from “Give me” to “Make me”!

- b. Reveals Restoration: “*But the father said to his SERVANTS*” (Vs. 22)
 - i. No Preconditions: Love was not withheld until...
 - ii. No Probations: Grace was not withheld until...

Key Concept: There is a tremendous implication for both our homes and this Church, which is: ‘You don’t work for acceptance in family.’

When true repentance is seen in the face and heard in the voice of a former rebel, the Father shows us how we must react. We immediately love and restore! Consequences may still come because of former sinful decisions, but relationship is restored immediately. Who has shown you this kind of reconciliation?

IV. The Father Imparts: *Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. (Vs. 22)*

- a. Robe: Practical: Standing
Spiritual: Righteousness in Christ
- b. Ring: Practical: Significance
Spiritual: Riches in Christ
- c. Sandals: Practical: Status
Spiritual: Reward in Christ

These 3 items (robe, ring, sandals) are all worn only by a son, not a servant. The Father is showing the watching world that his son has come home and is restored. When we return to the Father after a season of being in the far country in rebellion, what do we wear to show the world whose we are? What changes can they visibly see in our life?

- V. The Father Invests: *“Bring quickly...And Bring” (Vs.22-23)*
- a. In a Feast: *“And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat” (Vs. 23)*
 - b. In a Festivity: *“And celebrate” (Vs. 23)*
 - c. In a Freedom: *“For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.” (Vs. 24)*

Take Away: “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” Luke 15:10

You are a masterpiece of God (Eph. 2:10). He delights to celebrate over your life and give you spiritual blessings in Christ. How has He blessed you?

Prayer Requests