

Small Group Bible Study Questions. Sermon by Pastor Brendan. Feb. 8'26:

The Father's Joy! Luke 15

From Brendan: "These questions are a guide. You do not have to use every question. Knowing your group, go over these questions and ask God what questions you should focus on. May God bless and guide your discussions!"

- Welcome everyone and open with prayer.

Icebreaker Question:

- Have you ever lost something valuable and then found it? How would you describe that experience?
- Think about the best celebratory party that you have been a part of. What made it so amazing?

Follow-up from last week:

- How did thinking about a divided allegiance go this week? Did you take any steps towards wholeness?

Read Luke 15:2-1 (the set-up)

- What is going on that sets up Jesus to tell these 3 stories.
- Why do you think sinners and tax collectors felt safe with Jesus?
 - Are you able to do the same in your interaction with non-Christians? What could change?

Read Luke 15:3-10 (the parables of the lost sheep and coin):

- What do these two parables tell us about what God is like?

Read Luke 15:11-24 (The younger son):

- In what ways does the younger son's journey reflect real human experience? (You may refer to verses 13–16.)
 - Wasting
 - Emptiness
 - Enslavement
 - Loneliness
- How does the Father's response challenge your assumptions about God?

Read Luke 15:25-32 (The Older Brother):

- How does the elder brother's language reveal his view of his relationship with the father?
- In what ways can religious obedience become a way of trying to control God rather than enjoy Him?
 - *Keller quote:*
"Religion says: I obey, therefore I'm accepted.
The gospel of Jesus says: I'm accepted, therefore I obey."
- Do you identify more with the younger or older brother? Why?

- The sermon described salvation as material, individual, communal, and experiential. Which of these aspects do you most often overlook—and why?

Life Application Options (choose one):

- Share your faith (be bold and courageous)!
- Enter into the Father's Joy in some way (ex. Let go of shame. Let go of striving for good works to impress God. Throw a celebration).
- Reach out to begin healing a relationship