



# WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

## Coming Home

### *I Am Good*

**Luke 15:25-32**

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*“But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!” Then the father said to him, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”* **Luke 15:30-32**

According to Henri Nouwen, the “lostness” of the older son in this parable is harder to identify, because outwardly he is faultless. When his younger brother returns, we see him having turned into a resentful and proud person, who has become lost by doing all the right things. The younger brother, the prodigal, loses his way due to lust and self-indulgence, whereas we see the older brother guilty of resentment.

- Can lust and resentment produce equal damage? Discuss the qualities of each brother, both outwardly and inwardly. How do you identify with one or both?
- How can we end up being lost by doing all the right things?

When we live life as the “older brother,” it can produce in us a sense of well-being that comes from comparing ourselves to others.

- How can this cause us to remove ourselves from intimacy?
- Why do we need to be concerned that the older brother lives in us?

When we are concerned about being a rule-follower, we rob ourselves of relationships and loving our neighbor.

- How did being a rule-follower cause the older brother to distance himself from his brother, father, and during the festivities surrounding his brother’s homecoming?
- Why should we be concerned in our own lives about the effects of sin of following the rules? What can we do about it?

One of the most beautiful parts of this parable is the way in which the father equally pursues each of his sons: the younger son by welcoming him home with a celebration, the older son by coming out of the party to pursue him.

- What does it look like for us to return home to God?
- How does believing in God’s unconditional love for us take the pressure off of us to impress God with following the rules?

