



WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

Coming Home

The Heart of the Matter

Luke 15:31-32

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

“Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’” Luke 15:31

In studying this parable, we have examined how we can find characteristics of each of the two brothers within us – both as the prodigal and as his self-righteous older brother. This week’s perspective of the parable celebrates God’s love for us as the Father, relentlessly pursuing his wayward children.

In verse 31, the father leaves the party for the prodigal to pursue his older son who is angry about his younger brother’s homecoming, saying “son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.” Henri Nouwen says that there is no more succinct way to describe the love of God than this verse.

- *What would it mean to hold this posture of the father in our daily lives, by selflessly offering all that we have—and pursuing others not in a dignified, formal fashion, but with enthusiasm and celebration? Discuss ways this could look in our workplaces, in our families, and the places we play.*

As followers of Christ, we are called not only to accept the love of the Father, but reflect it to the world. C.S. Lewis said we are to try to be “little Christs,” reflecting the love of God. Thomas suggested that the way we reflect the love of God is by never forgetting we are His children. It is about mimicking – receiving and reflecting His love to others.

- *What are some practices to help you remember, accept, and celebrate God’s love for you? Discuss some ways in which you can engage scripture this summer to help you hold on to God’s promise to you that “all that is mine is yours.”*
- *Discuss some ways this summer that we can practice moving from being “wayward” to being generous—by taking our blessings, and sharing them with Austin and the world around us.*

Dear Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and celebrate Your great love for us. Taking Your example, help us be “little Christs,” reflecting Your love to others. Help us to embrace your promise that “all that I have is yours,” and offer ourselves and all that we have, sharing our blessings with our community and with the world. Help us be a constant encouragement to one another to live lives which glorify You. **Amen.**

