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“The resurrection of Jesus means the worst thing is never the last thing.”
[Frederick Buechner]

ICEBREAKER

Describe the best invitation you’ve ever received. What impact did it have on you?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER

Spend a moment praying this passage, beginning your time together in humility and gratitude!

*“But I have trusted in your faithful love; my heart will rejoice in your deliverance.
I will sing to the Lord because he has treated me generously.”*
[Psalm 13:5-6]

BIG IDEA

Our “with” problem is solved when we see who God is and how much He wants to be WITH us, at great cost to Himself.

PASSAGE

- Luke 15:1-31

DISCUSSION

1. In the sermon we heard, *“When we break our connection with God, we end up attached to something else.”* How have you seen that be true in your own life?
2. How does the parable of the lost sheep reflect God's character and His relationship with humanity?
3. In the parable of the lost coin, why does the woman diligently search for the lost coin? What does this teach us about God's attitude towards us?
4. In the parable of the prodigal son, why does the father run to meet his returning son?
5. The older brother's reaction to his brother's return is one of resentment and anger. What can we learn from his attitude?
6. In the sermon we heard, *“The common struggle is for each son to let the father love them. God loves us no matter what we’ve done and not because of what we’ve done.”* How has that been a struggle for you at times? What helped you truly embrace God’s love for you?
7. How does the parable of the prodigal son challenge your understanding of forgiveness and reconciliation?

8. In Luke 15:7, Jesus says, "There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." How does this display God's priorities and values?
9. How does the parable of the prodigal son illustrate God's grace?
10. What can we learn from the father's response to his prodigal son? How about his older son? Who is God inviting you to extend this same grace to?
11. The father says, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours." What does this reveal about God's abundance and our inheritance as His children?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE

The beautiful truth for us to behold is this: God loves us no matter what we've done and not because of what we've done. Based on the Holy Spirit's prompting today, *what is a step of obedience that you can take to accept God's invitation to be "with" Him more purposely and consistently?*

PRAYER FOCUS

Resurrection Momentum

- How will the empty tomb impact your life and actions this week? Let's pray that the *power of the resurrection* would continue to fuel us to live sent as we move beyond Easter weekend.
- It's human nature for our hearts to grow cold towards God's grace and goodness to us. Let's pray that the Holy Spirit will help us truly *treasure the goodness of God* with all of our hearts.