

PARTY WITH THE FATHER

THE **GREAT GOD** STORY



**GROUP
RESOURCE**

Our Liturgy

The Lord is here — His Spirit is with us.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is — there is Freedom!

CONNECT

— 15 MINUTES

How would you explain God as a Father to someone without faith?

REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

The Themes of the Great God story:

Presence — People — Authority

Read Luke 11:1–3, 11–32

- Where do you see yourself in this parable?
- Both sons wanted what the Father could give them without a relationship with Him—what might this look like in your life?
- The Father moved TOWARD both sons. Do you believe He's moving toward you today? Why or why not?
- The first son wanted to be a hired hand to pay back what he'd wasted, the second son saw himself as a slave in the Father's house—can you relate to either posture?
- Reflect on this quote from Dallas Willard: "Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action."
- What does grace practically look like in your life?
- One son was bound in shame and one son bound in bitterness and entitlement, but both had the same invitation to the Father's embrace—where do you find yourself?

Getting to know the Father:

- The OT is full of God's cry to be with His people, but the enemy of our souls wants to tell us lies so we will live in shame and disconnection.
- Read John 14:1–9
- How does Jesus say we can know the Father?
- What would this practically look like in your life?
- Read John 16:33; sometimes we feel like God is far off because life is difficult—what does Jesus say about this?



APPLICATION

— 20 MINUTES

We live between Eden and the New Heaven and New Earth, but the party starts now!

How do we enter in?

Both sons just needed to take a step toward the Father and He came running.

- The step is confessing our need and repentance (turning).
- Bring any shame and self-hatred to God today and ask Him to take it away from you.
- Confess any anger toward and disappointment with God
- Acknowledge any bitterness and entitlement and give it to Him

The Father placed the best robe and a ring on the son—righteousness and identity—as a gift covering all shame.

- Pray, “I receive your love.” Step into it by faith.
- Ask God to reveal the identity He has given to you. What does He say about you? Receive
- Start to party! Rejoice! Sing a joyful song! Enter into the truth He has spoken!

Going Deeper:

- The Return of the Prodigal Son by Henri Nouwen is a short but beautiful book that invites you deeper into the revelation of what it means to live in the love of the Father.
- Watch this short video from the Bible Project on the Prodigal Son: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/gospel-luke-3/>

