

UPCOMING EVENTS:

EMPTY NESTER NIGHT - AUGUST 2ND

If you're an "empty nester" - we would love to have you join us for a fun night of bingo, food, music, and fun! Join Pastor Jeremiah and Cheri as we get to know each other better!

YOUNG ADULT NIGHT - AUGUST 7TH

18-30 years old and looking to connect with others in your season of life? Join us for this connect event on Friday, August 7th! Scan the QR code for all the deets!



PERSONAL NOTES:

LIFE GROUPS:

CHECK OUT A LIFE GROUP!

LIFE GROUPS are smaller groups of people who commit to meet together consistently for the purpose of growing relationally and spiritually.

Browse all the Life Groups option in the Westbridge Church App and sign up today!

Let us know if you have ANY questions!



MESSAGE NOTES

Reading Between The Lines // Week 9

"A man had two sons. the younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything." **Luke 15:11-16**

What looks like FREEDOM often becomes a PRISON .

"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."' So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began." **Luke 15:17-24**

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. when he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.' The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'" **Luke 15:25-30**

Religion is getting what you DESERVE .

Grace is getting what we DO NOT deserve.

"His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!'" **Luke 15:31-32**

3 things Jesus redefines:

1. SIN 2. GOD 3. SALVATION .

LIFE GROUPS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

These questions are designed to help groups discuss the weekend teaching while building relationships with each other and growing in our faith!

July 23rd / 26th, 2026

1

WARM UP

1. Have you ever lost something important and then suddenly found it? What happened?

2. What stands out to you the most about the story of the lost son?

2

KNOW IT

1. As you reflect on the story of the lost son, in what ways were *both* sons separated from their father?

2. Read **Romans 3:21-24**. What does this passage say about who needs grace and how we receive it?

3. Read **Ephesians 2:4-10**. What's the difference between doing good things **to earn** God's love and doing good things **because we already have** God's love?

4. Read **Romans 5:6-8**. How does this passage mirror the father running toward the younger son?

5. The father in the story goes out to **both** sons - the rebellious son and the religious son. What does that reveal about the heart and character of God?

3

SHARE IT

1. Which tendency do you see more often in yourself: the **younger brother** who wants freedom from God or the **older brother** who believes his goodness earn him something?

2. Have you ever caught yourself thinking, "*God, after everything I've done, I deserve better than this*"? What does that reveal about how easily we can slip into an earning mentality?

3. The younger brother "came to his senses" when his life hit a low point. Has God ever used a difficult season, disappointment, or failure to soften your heart or draw you back toward him?

4. Our view of our earthly father can sometimes influence how we picture God. What characteristics of the father in this parable challenge or strengthen the way you see your heavenly Father?

4

LIVE IT

1. Is there an area where you know you've been "forging your own path" instead of trusting God? What would surrender look like in that area?

2. Who in your life is difficult for you to celebrate when something good happens to them? What might your reaction reveal about your own heart?

3. Are you spiritually "at the party", enjoying relationship with the Father - or standing outside because something has made you resentful? What might be keeping you outside?