



Week 3- “Redefining Safety”

In this series, we have been diving into a story that Jesus told known as the *Prodigal Son*, and through it we discover how Jesus redefined what the world knew about God, sin, and salvation. In this week’s message, we look at how Jesus redefined safety; something that we desperately need in our world right now.

1. How would you define *safety*? What is your natural response when someone or something doesn’t feel safe?
2. In your experience has the church been a safe place for you? Has God been a safe place? Share with the group your experiences that made you feel this way.

Read Luke 15:25-27

3. How has your need to feel safe been amplified in a world that does not feel safe? Where do you find yourself turning to for safety?
4. Do you ever feel anxiety over the “cancel culture” that we live in? Are you afraid that one mess up will define you and impact your future?
5. We can see in this story that the older son had a “cancel culture mentality;” he was just as lost as the younger son but didn’t know it. Have you ever seen this rise up in you as you look around and are tempted to judge those that are different from you?
6. What do you think would have happened if the older son was at the city gate when the younger brother came home?
7. The Father in the story knew what the younger son had done, and knew the attitude of the older son and yet loved them both unconditionally. He invited them both to find rest and safety with Him. Discuss this. Do you feel fully loved and fully known by God? What is keeping you from trusting His love?

8. One of the safest places in our culture is Alcoholics Anonymous, because everyone in the group is aware of their own struggles and they welcome others into the group with a “me too” mentality that is so opposite from the “cancel culture” we live in. What would it be like if the church had this same mentality?

9. Are you able to recognize your own sin disease? Can you say “*me too*” when someone shares their story with you? If this is hard for you to do, why do you think that is?

10. If you are longing to feel safe, would you consider the picture of the Father that Jesus portrays in this story and run to Him?

In the story of the *Prodigal Son* Jesus portrays God as a Father that fully knows you and fully loves you. Whether you are the older son judging someone else’s sin, or the younger brother who has messed up, the Father is running to you with arms of grace open wide. You do not have to hide, you can run to Him and find the safety that you long for.