



Week 2- “Redefining Sin”

Last week we began looking at the story of the “Prodigal Son” that Jesus told a group of people in order to redefine what they knew about God, sin, and salvation. Jesus told this story to the group because it represents who we are and shows us that God is a lavish, recklessly generous Father. In this week’s message, we look at how Jesus redefines sin. So often we picture God as an angry judge, but this shows us a completely different picture.

1. When you think of the word “sin” what comes to mind? How was this defined for you growing up?
2. How do you picture God responding to your sin?
3. Have you ever felt like God turned His back on you because of something you did? What made you feel that way?

Read Luke 15:11-24

4. In what ways does this story paint a different picture of sin than the one you have or that the world has?
5. The word “compassion” means to “suffer together.” In this story Jesus tells the story of the Father running to his son to help him and restore him. Have you ever pictured God in this way- running towards you?
6. When the famine hit the son’s first instinct was to try and save himself. In what ways have you tried to save yourself?
7. All that it took for the younger son to be right with his Father was to recognize his need for help. Discuss how that truth applies to your life.

Read Luke 15:25-30

Jesus shows how sometimes our selfish, prideful hearts lead to outward sin like the younger brother, but sometimes our selfish prideful hearts lead to good behavior where we are striving to always do the right thing. Jesus was saying that sin is not an action. it is a disease that has infected everyone.

8. In this story one son could see his sickness and one could not. Which son do you most identify with?

9. In what ways have you found yourself checking boxes in order to be in good standing God and with people?

10. In what ways has pride kept you from feeling connected to God? Why is pride so impossible to overcome on your own?

11. Jesus died on the cross in order to heal us from the disease of sin, all we have to do is acknowledge that we are sick and need His help. Have you gotten to the place in your life where you recognize your need for help, your need for a Savior? Share with the group what brought you to that moment or what might be preventing you from getting there.

The story of the “Prodigal Son” tells the story of a Father who is lavish and recklessly generous in His desire to heal the disease of sin. We have all been infected by this sin disease, but the good news is we simply need to recognize our “sickness” and acknowledge our need for Him. And we have a Father who looks at us with lavish love and meets us right in our mess.

