



# NEW HEIGHTS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

*“Our Heart is People, Our Message is Jesus”*

## **Small Group Discussion Questions**

**Series: Glimpses of the Kingdom**

**Title: “Easter 2026”**

### **Icebreaker / Getting Started (10-15 minutes)**

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon—maybe a phrase, story, or idea (like “there are two ways to be lost but only one way to be found,” the father running to both sons, the line “you can grow up in church and still be outside the Father’s house,” or the open invitation to come home on Easter)? Why did it hit you?
2. The sermon describes parables as glimpses of the kingdom that require us to “squint” and get personally involved. Have you ever realized (maybe through a story, a failure, or a moment of grace) that you were “lost” in a way you didn’t expect—either through rebellion or through performance/religion? Share briefly.

### **Digging into the Scripture & Sermon (15-20 minutes)**

3. Read Luke 15:11-32 together as a group. Jesus tells a story about two sons who both leave the father’s house in different ways. How does this shift—from seeing the parable as just “the prodigal son” to “two lost sons”—change how we understand what it means to be lost? (Reference the sermon’s point: The younger son is lost in rebellion; the older son is lost in religion/performance/self-righteousness.)
4. The father leaves the house to run to the younger son (while he was still a long way off) and also goes out to beg the older son to come in. Why do you think Jesus made the father’s response to both sons so extravagant and pursuing? What does this reveal about the heart of God on Easter morning?
5. The sermon highlights three key insights from the parable:
  - Two ways to be lost: The younger brother lost in rebellion and pleasure; the older brother lost in performance, duty, and self-righteousness (even while staying “in the house”).
  - One way to be found: Coming home to the Father’s love and mercy through Jesus (not by cleaning up or performing better).
  - The Father’s heart: He runs to both kinds of lost sons and throws a party when they return.

Which of these feels most convicting or encouraging to you right now, and why?

### **Personal Application & Reflection (15-20 minutes)**

6. The sermon says many people grow up in church or do “all the right things” but can still be outside the Father’s house if their heart is rooted in performance rather than relationship. Where in your life do you sometimes slip into the older brother’s attitude (comparison, resentment, “I’ve served you all these years..”)? Or where do you recognize the younger brother’s pattern (running from God to find life on your own terms)?
7. Jesus Himself is the “one way to be found.” He left the Father’s house, entered our far country, and made the way home through His death and resurrection. How does remembering that “the empty tomb is the open door” change how you view your own story of being lost and found—or someone else’s?
8. This Easter, the Father is still running toward anyone who takes even one step home. Is there an area of your life right now where you sense the invitation to “come home” to the Father’s love (whether from rebellion, performance, burnout, or distance)? What would one practical step of turning toward Him look like this week?

### **Prayer & Action Steps (10 minutes)**

9. In pairs, ask each other: “How can I bless or pray for you this week as you take a step toward ‘coming home’ to the Father?” (e.g., releasing performance, surrendering a specific area, or praying for someone else who feels lost). Then pray a simple blessing over that person.
10. As a closing group prayer, invite everyone to ask the Holy Spirit: “Lord, what is one way I can respond to Your pursuing love this week—coming home, releasing pride/performance, or helping someone else know they can come home?” Share any promptings (e.g., a prayer of repentance, reaching out to someone, resting in grace instead of striving). Commit to following through and checking in next time to celebrate stories of being found.