



GRACE

Small Group Guide: The Story of Two Sons

Based on Luke 15:11-32

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: Share about a time you lost something valuable (keys, phone, wallet, etc.). How did you feel when you found it? How far did you go to search for it?

Sermon Recap

This week we concluded our series on grace by examining Jesus' parable of two sons. Both sons had choices to make about how they would respond to their father's grace—one son wandered far away, the other never left home but struggled to extend grace to his brother. The father in the story represents God, who offers unlimited grace to both sons and invites us to both receive and extend that same grace.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Younger Son

- 1. The younger son created both geographical and spiritual distance from his father. In what ways do we create distance from God even while maintaining the appearance of faith?**



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2. When the son "came to his senses," he remembered his father's character and nature. What does it tell us about God that even in our lowest moments, we can remember His goodness? How does remembering God's character help us return to Him?
3. The father ran to meet his son—something culturally humiliating for a man to do. What does this tell us about God's heart toward us when we return to Him? How does this challenge or comfort you?

Understanding the Older Son

4. The older son lived in the father's house, had the father's name, ate at the father's table, but never had his father's heart. How is it possible to be close to God externally but far from Him internally? What are the warning signs?
5. The older son used "always" and "never" statements that weren't actually true. When have you caught yourself keeping score with God or feeling entitled to His blessings? How does this attitude affect our ability to extend grace?
6. Who is the "younger son" in your life—someone you struggle to extend grace to? What makes it difficult to give them what God has freely given you?

Personal Application

7. The sermon asked: "Have you ever received the FULL grace of God?" Many of us accept partial forgiveness but hold onto shame for certain sins. What keeps us from fully accepting God's complete grace?



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8. "Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more" (Romans 5:20). Do you truly believe God's grace can cover ALL your sins, or do you think you're the exception? Why?
 9. The story ends with a choice—what happens next? If you're the younger son, will grace be a catalyst for change? If you're the older son, will you go inside and celebrate? What is YOUR next step in this story?
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Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose One or More)

For Those Who Need to Receive Grace:

- Spend 15 minutes in prayer confessing specific sins you've been holding onto, then declare out loud: "God's grace covers this completely."
- Write down the things you feel most ashamed of, then physically tear up the paper as a symbol of accepting God's full forgiveness.

For Those Who Need to Extend Grace:

- Identify one person you've been withholding grace from and take one concrete step toward reconciliation this week.
- When you're tempted to judge someone this week, pause and remember: "I am the younger son. I've been given grace I didn't deserve."

For Everyone:

- Read Luke 15 daily this week and journal: "Am I more like the younger son or the older son right now? Why?"



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For Group Leaders

Additional Resources:

- **Encourage members to revisit previous weeks in the grace series if they missed them**
- **Remind the group about the new series starting next week leading up to Easter**
- **Consider sharing communion together as a group to celebrate God's grace**

Sensitive Topics to Watch For:

- **Some may have painful "prodigal" stories involving family members**
- **Others may be dealing with deep shame they haven't shared**
- **Be prepared to offer additional prayer or pastoral support as needed**