

Main Idea

On Easter we focused on the prodigal son and the heart of the Father. That story showed us a Father who watches, runs, embraces, covers, and restores. But Easter adds something crucial: this homecoming is only possible because Jesus died and rose again. This week, instead of staying only on the prodigal's return, we want to ask what the resurrection means for those who belong to Jesus now. If the road home is open, how do sons and daughters live?

Leader Note: Tell the group this is a post-Easter conversation. Sunday was outward-facing, calling wanderers home. This week is for believers to reflect on what it means that Jesus is alive and that we now live as restored sons and daughters. Encourage people to actually read the bible passages out loud before answering.

READ Luke 15:11-24:

1. What stands out to you most now that Easter has passed: the son's return, the father's running, the embrace, the robe, or the welcome? Why?
2. What does the prodigal story teach us about the heart of God toward people who have wandered?

READ 1 Peter 1:3-9

1. Peter says we have been given "new birth into a living hope" through the resurrection of Jesus.
2. What makes our hope "living" instead of dead or theoretical?
3. How does the resurrection do more than forgive our past?
4. How does it change our present and our future?

READ Romans 8:14-17

1. It says believers are not slaves but sons and daughters, and that we cry, "Abba, Father."
2. Where do you still tend to live more like a servant than a son or daughter?

READ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

1. What words or phrases show that salvation is more than behavior change?
2. What do these verses say God has done for us in Christ?
3. Why is it important that Easter is not just proof that Jesus is powerful, but proof that the road home is open?
4. What is one area of your life where you still need to stop trying to "pay God back" and simply receive His grace?
5. What does it look like for a believer to live as someone who has been fully received, not barely tolerated?

Who in your life needs to hear not only that God forgives, but that through Jesus they can come home and be received?

The prodigal story shows the Father's heart. Easter shows the cost of that welcome. Jesus did not just tell us that the Father runs toward prodigals. He made that welcome possible through His death and resurrection. Because Jesus lives, believers do not live in guilt trying to earn a place in the house. We live as sons and daughters who have been brought near, covered, reconciled, and made new.

EASTER Prodigal questions to discuss:

- Where do you still feel like you have to pay penance sometimes?
- Where am I still living like a servant instead of a son or daughter?
- Where do I still carry shame that Jesus already paid for?
- Where do I need to live with resurrection hope instead of old fear?
- Who can I move toward this week with the same grace the Father showed me?