



THE ONE

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

WK 3: The Older Brother

THE ONE SERIES OVERVIEW

Jesus came to seek and save lost people. When the lost are found, all of heaven rejoices over their salvation.

LUKE 15 VIDEO OVERVIEW

- [Chapter 15](#)

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:25-32

- [Watch Scripture Video](#)

25 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ 31 And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

THE BIG IDEA

We can't save ourselves through right behavior, and to believe otherwise is to deny the Gospel. Religious people must repent in order to be saved.

CONTEXT

In Luke 15:25-32, Jesus tells the story of the older brother who becomes angry when his father celebrates the return of the prodigal son. The father explains that it is fitting to celebrate because his lost son was found.

ICEBREAKER: Share a brief story (funny or serious) about a time that wasn't fair and you responded with anger or jealousy. Maybe you got in trouble and your guilty friend didn't. Or you did a project at school but your classmate got the credit.

STARTER QUESTION

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 15:25-32 together or watch the [scripture video](#) as a group.

What does Luke 15:25-32 teach us about who God is and His character?

What does the father's response (vs 31-32) to the older brother teach us about God's grace?



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GROUP DISCUSSION cont.

Read Chronicles 16:9a. "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." (NIV) How does this verse relate to the older/religious son? What does it look like for our church to have "hearts that are fully committed to Him"?

Pastor James shared 5 signs you might be the older brother. Have an honest and grace-filled conversation for each statement and share your personal struggles for each.

1. Older brothers work for the Father but don't walk with the Father.
2. Older brothers get angry when other people get blessed.
3. Older brothers view obedience as a chore.
4. Older brothers obey the Father for selfish gain.
5. Older brothers don't share the Father's heart for the lost

Deeper Community: Which son (younger/prodigal or older/religious) are you most like? Why?

PRAYER

*For a deeper and more responsive prayer time, separate into smaller (3-6 people) groups of men, women or couples.

Share praises, answered prayers, prayer requests and what God is doing in you through our All To Him Discipleship Journey.

PRAYER cont.

Pray for your ONE by name!

Share any God stories about Your ONE since you've been praying for them.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your boundless grace and love that welcomes us back with open arms, no matter how far we have strayed. Forgive us God for being judgemental and unforgiving toward others and help us to extend grace and forgiveness to others as you have done for us. Jesus, your grace is enough. Amen

Opportunities to GROW at Crosspoint City

- **21 Days of Prayer & Fasting**
Join the community on our Church App. Join us for Closer, 1/30-2/2.
- **Crosspoint Institute begins 1/27**
Check out the Marriage Workshop and Parenting Workshop. Both are fun to do together as a small group. Information and sign ups at <https://www.crosspointcity.com/institute/>
- **Women's Discipleship**
[Crosspointcity.com/women](https://www.crosspointcity.com/women)
- **Men's Discipleship**
[Crosspointcity.com/men](https://www.crosspointcity.com/men)