



Sermon Discussion Guide

Joy in Salvation

Series: Joy with Jesus

Main Text: Luke 15:11–32

Introduction

This guide can be used on your own or with a small group to reflect on the weekend’s passage and apply it to your life. Choose the questions that work best for your group—there’s no need to go through them all. To learn more, visit silverdalebc.com/smallgroups.

Icebreaker Options

1. What's the most memorable time your GPS led you the wrong way?
 2. What is one of the best “welcome home” moments you’ve ever experienced or seen?
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Leader’s Note

Luke 15:11–32 is one of the clearest pictures of salvation in all of Scripture. Jesus tells the story of a rebellious son who wandered far from home, a gracious father who welcomed him back, and an older brother who struggled to celebrate grace. This passage reminds us that salvation is not earned—it is received through the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God. And when sinners come home to God, heaven rejoices.

Main Points

1. Sin Promises Freedom but Leads to Brokenness

Key Scripture: Luke 15:11–16

Discuss

- Why do you think the younger son believed life away from the father would be better?
- What are some ways people today search for fulfillment apart from God? In what ways have you seen this play out in your life?

Leader's Note

The younger son believed freedom meant independence from the father, but his choices led him into emptiness and desperation. Sin often looks attractive at first, but separation from God always leaves the soul unsatisfied.

2. Salvation Begins with Repentance

Key Scripture: Luke 15:17–20

Discuss

- What does it mean that the son “came to his senses?” Have you ever had a moment where you came to your senses and returned to Jesus?
- Why is humility necessary for someone to receive salvation?
- What keeps people from turning back to God today? How can we lovingly help them begin to take steps towards Jesus?

Leader's Note

Repentance is not just feeling guilty—it is recognizing our need for God and turning back toward Him. The younger son acknowledged his brokenness and chose to return home. Salvation begins when we stop running from God and surrender to Him.

3. The Father Joyfully Welcomes Returning Sinners

Key Scripture: Luke 15:20–24

Discuss

- What stands out most to you about the father’s response to his returning son?
- Why is it important that the father ran to the son before the son could prove himself?
- How does this story help us better understand the heart of God?

Leader’s Note

The father responded with compassion, forgiveness, restoration, and celebration. Jesus wants us to know that God delights in saving sinners. Salvation is not about earning our way back—it is about receiving the grace the Father freely gives.

4. Don’t Miss the Joy of Salvation

Key Scripture: Luke 15:25–32

Discuss

- Why was the older brother unwilling to celebrate his brother’s return?
- How can pride or self-righteousness keep people from experiencing joy in God’s grace?
- How can we become people who celebrate salvation the way heaven does?

Leader’s Note

The older brother was physically near the father but emotionally far from his heart. He cared more about fairness than mercy. Jesus challenges us to rejoice when lives are changed and to celebrate the saving grace of God instead of comparing ourselves to others.

Closing Prayer

Thank God for His grace and salvation through Jesus Christ. Spend time praying for people in your life who are far from God and need to come home to Him. Ask the Lord to help your group celebrate salvation, extend grace freely, and reflect the joyful heart of the Father.