Introduction: Jesus redefines God

- The Occasion
  Luke 15:1
- The Conflict
  Luke 15:2
- The Parable
  Luke 15:3-32

The one parable has 3 stories.

Each story has ________________ things in common:

1. Something valuable is ________________________

2. An intensive ________________________ occurs.

3. That which was lost is ________________________

4. A great ________________________ follows.

5. The spiritual application is ________________________
What do we learn from this parable? (Review)

- God deeply values irreligious, immoral, lost people.

- God is actively pursuing relationship with lost people.

- Heaven rejoices when one lost person repents.

- The value of that which is lost exponentially increases in each story.
  
  (Sheep → Coin → Sons)

- The father in story #3 represents God.

- The two sons depict the “immoral sinners” (younger son) and “religious sinners,” Pharisees (older son).

- Both sons are equally lost, but not equally aware of their lost-ness.

What do we learn about the 3 main characters? Luke 15:11-12

- The son’s request: “I want ____________________________ now!”

- The son’s message: “I wish you were __________________________.”

- The implications for the father __________________________ and __________________________.
God’s Generosity – Received
Luke 15:11-24

- The father’s unprecedented response ___________________________ his audience.

- The older son’s shocking ___________________________ revealed his broken relationship with his father and brother.

What can we learn about ourselves? **Luke 15:13-17**

- “… distant country…” where he’s gone.
- “… severe famine…” why he doesn’t just come home.
- “… feeding pigs…” can’t get any more desperate
- Younger son “came to his senses.”
  1. I will ___________________________ “… go back home.”
  2. I will ___________________________ “… my sin to my father and God.”
  3. I will _________ _____________________ “… a hired hand.”
  4. I will _________ _________ _________ “… he got up and went.”

** The son’s expectations, fears, and perspective from a Middle Eastern peasant culture is available in Dr. Ken Bailey’s book: The Cross and the Prodigal
What do we learn about God’s heart?

1. The best ____________________________:

2. The ________________________________:

3. The ________________________________:

4. The ________________________________:

5. The ________________________________:

The father’s response is shocking, _____________________________, and completely unexpected as he takes the _____________________________ his son deserves.

Jesus’ message to us is...

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Where do you need grace in your life right now?

2. Which part of this story resonated the most with you?

3. Who in your relational network has hit “rock bottom” and needs to know God values them through you?

4. What step of faith do you need to take to draw near to your heavenly Father?