



## PEACE WITH GOD

If you have a pattern of having someone share their *Story of Faith* (life before Jesus, encountering Jesus, life since/lately with Jesus) and/or sharing *Evidences of God's grace*, begin with that, followed by a time of thankful prayer for Christ's work in the individual's life/the grace in your lives.

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### OPENING COMMENT

Jesus came into the world to usher in God's Kingdom and to make a way for us to have peace with God. Our sin has made us hostile towards God but the life, death and resurrection of Jesus has makes a way for us to have peace with God.

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### READ THE TEXT: [Luke 15:11-32](#)

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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The younger son didn't want the father so much as his benefits. Which is more elevated in your life: God or His benefits?
2. Why would the father not allow the son to come back as a servant rather than a son? What does that teach us about the gospel?
3. Where the younger son was unrighteous the older son was self-righteous. Do you relate to the danger of believing that moral living will merit you favour with God? How does that posture cause you to relate to God and others?



4. Luke 15:1-2 shows that Jesus told this parable to two distinct groups: *Religious Outsiders* (sinners & tax collectors) and *Religious Insiders* (pharisees & scribes). What was compelling about the life and message of Jesus?
5. Is the radical message of the gospel what our church and lives are known for?
6. Though we have been hostile towards God we are not without hope. What is the significance of the father running to *embrace* his younger son and coming out to *entreat* his elder son? Why is that Good News?

## CONCLUSION

Peace with God is offered to unrighteous sinners (religious outsiders) and self-righteous sinners (religious insiders) through the gospel. Because Jesus was born into history, lived the life we couldn't, died the death we should have, and rose again to save us we can experience the embrace and entreating of the Father to partake of His mercy and enter the eternal banquet feast.

## SHARE & PRAY

- Share how you can pray for each other in light of this study.
- Is there anyone you can bless as individuals, families or as a group this Christmas? Pray about how you can shine the light of Christ this Christmas.
- Conclude by spending some time praying for one another, for the areas of growth and grace you are seeking, and the needs among you.

