

# Brother to Brother

**Luke 15:11-32**  
*Pastor Don Rogers*

## Personal Connection (25 minutes)

### Icebreaker

We have all been in situations in our lives where we have seen someone else get something we desired. Many times, we think our frustrations are justified because “the other person didn’t deserve it as much” as we did. Share about a time in your life, where this has happened to you.

### Review Last Sunday’s *What Now?*

Last week we discussed our need for more worship in our daily lives, and the call to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Q. Have you sought the Lord in worship this week, in addition to your time in church?

Q. Did you get the opportunity to disciple another brother or sister in Christ this week?

### Ups and Downs

How did it go last week? Share with the group some of your highs and lows, and offer praise to God for the doors that he has opened.

### Sharing Christ

As Christians, there are some things that God calls us to do that are not easy, especially when someone hurts us very deeply.

Q. How can forgiveness to those who have hurt us, give glory to Christ?

### Praying for each other

Reflect on the questions above and share with the group. Take some time now and appoint someone in the group to pray for spiritual strength and guidance to grow in areas of vulnerability.

## Digging Deeper (30 minutes)

### **This Week’s Key Concept:**

**As brothers and sisters in Christ, we should always respond with a spirit of restoration to those who repent and return home.**

### Read Luke 15:11-32

In verses 15-16, it’s important to give some perspective on how low the younger son had stooped, just to survive. According to Moses’s law, pigs were unclean animals, and this meant they couldn’t even touch a pig without defilement. The younger Jewish son stooped so low, that he fed pigs, and was eating the food the pigs had touched! In Jewish culture, this would have been degrading beyond belief.

Q. Have you ever experienced a time in your life, where desperate times called for desperate measures? How did you handle the repercussions, if any?

Verse 17 describes how the younger son had to hit rock bottom before coming to his senses. It often takes great sorrow and tragedy for us to turn to the Lord for help.

Q. Can you think of a time in your life where you experienced great tragedy and sorrow, yet still experienced God's grace? Share with your LIFE Group as you feel led.

Verse 20 relates the story about how the father watched and waited for his younger son to return. This is much like our Heavenly Father. God's love is constant, patient, welcoming, and he is always waiting with open arms of love and mercy, when we return to him!

Q. Have you ever felt so low in your life, that you didn't feel you deserved to be loved? How did God's grace pull you out of this turmoil? LIFE Group members: rejoice together as your brothers and sisters share their testimony.

In verses 25-30, the parable explains how the older brother had a lot of difficulty accepting his younger brother when he returned. The older brother thought it was unfair for his father to be so generous and forgiving of all his younger brother's sins, but not offer anything to him, the most "senior" brother, for his loyalty and service to his father. The father forgave because he was filled with love. The older son however, refused to forgive, because he was bitter; his resentment resulted in him being just as lost to his father's love, as the younger brother had just been!

Q. Can you relate with the older son?

Q. Have you ever felt like the younger son?

Q. What can you take away from the father's response?

### Impact Questions

Q. Is there anything about the sermon, which you feel God leading you to put into practice in your daily life?

Q. Has God reminded you of someone you need to forgive (again)? Share with your LIFE Group as you feel comfortable.

**It is easy to relate with the older and younger sons at different times in your life. Every single person has been rebellious, immature, prideful, bitter and sinful. None of these blemishes make you unlovable to your Father, but can separate you from his love and mercy, should you allow your sins to take precedence over his will for you. Just as your Father forgives you and your many sins, you should forgive those who have done you wrong. And when a sinner repents, love them wholeheartedly and give them the support and encouragement they need to grow in Christ!**

### What now? (15 minutes)

This week, earnestly seek the Lord, and ask him to reveal any grudges or bitterness toward someone that might have a stronghold on you. Pray that he would cleanse your heart and help you to see this person as he does. Pray for forgiveness, pray for the person who is difficult to forgive, and pray that those separated from the Lord would return to him.

### Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please share your prayer requests and praises, so that your LIFE Group may lift you up, in neighborly affection.

Please pray for expanding Christ's Kingdom through your relationships, in our congregation, to the community, and in distant places. In addition, pray that the Lord would help you to love others, as he loves you.