

Coming Home - Home Away from Home

Luke 15:25-27; Luke 15:28

1. To live in the Father's love is to share His heart for the lost and His joy when they come safely home- we love the lost because we are so deeply secure in our Father's love. *Luke 15:10; 1 John 4:16-19; Mark 12:30-31*

2. To live in the Father's love is to see yourself as a son, not a slave. It means you don't work to prove yourself- you serve because your Father loves you, you're grateful for His love, and you're partnering with Him to build His estate. *Luke 15:29-30; Ephesians 2:8-9; Luke 6:41-42; Luke 6:37-38; Romans 5:20b; Romans 6:1-2*

3. Living in the Father's love means to hear, believe, receive and respond to His affirmation as he says, "You are dear to me, you belong with me and you can rest assured that all I have is yours." Living in the Father's love frees you to celebrate what is important to Him- the lost coming safely home. *Luke 15:31-32*

Next week's reading guide: Feasting with the Father

Luke 15:7,10,20-24; Psalm 85:6

Matthew 9:36; Psalm 103:13

James 4:8; Ephesians 1:18; Hebrews 12:2

Zechariah 3:1-4; Isaiah 61:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21

Psalm 34:8; Isaiah 55:1,2; Psalm 23:5; Matthew 5:6

Matthew 22:1-3; Isaiah 25:6-8; Revelation 19:7-9

Luke 10:20; Psalm 37:3,4; Nehemiah 8:10; Philippians 4:4

Discussion Questions:

1. How well do you love the lost and the prodigals? On a scale of 1-10, how often do you think about them and what you might say to them? What do you think about being intentional about sharing Christ's love with lost people?
2. Would you say you see yourself more as a son (or daughter), or a slave? Delight or duty? Is it easy or difficult for you to trust the Father's grace? Why?
3. How free do you feel in your relationship with God and others? Are you free to be yourself in Christ? Do you feel self-conscious sometimes? Think of someone who doesn't seem self-conscious and say what you like about them.
4. Think of 3 people you suspect may be away from the Father's love and commit to pray for them. Ask God to show you a way to pursue them with the Father's love.