

RUN TO THE — FATHER +

A NEW SERMON SERIES ON LUKE 15

SERIES OVERVIEW

At some point in our lives — each of us has run. Often, we find ourselves running in a poor direction, looking for love, joy, and peace. Through the lens of the prodigal son, we see a glimpse of the Father's heart from three unique perspectives — the prodigal son, the Father, and the older brother.



WEEK ONE

When we trust our own way to pursue selfish desires it leads to sin. Sin leads to death. This week we talked about how the story of the Prodigal Son shows the themes of: **Separation**, **Desperation**, **Realization**, and **Redemption**. In the end, when we hit this cycle, we can simply run to the Father.

Challenge

Separation leads to discontentment, entitlement, and disobedience.
Desperation comes from misplaced freedom in self.
Realization opens our eyes and hearts to God.
Redemption comes from a loving father.

Questions

- How should we respond to God, our father, running toward us?
- In what ways are you following your way rather than God's?
- What do you need to release in order to run to the father?

WEEK TWO

In Luke 15, we often spotlight the prodigal son who ran away and was welcomed back—but Jesus also tells the story of the **older brother**, who stayed home yet harbored pride, bitterness, and self-righteousness. While he never physically left, **his heart was far from the Father**. He believed his good behavior made him more deserving of love and celebration than his younger brother. His **pride** blinded him to his own need for grace, and his **comparison** kept him from joining the celebration of restoration. The older brother represents many of us who work hard for God but silently wonder why others seem to be blessed so easily.

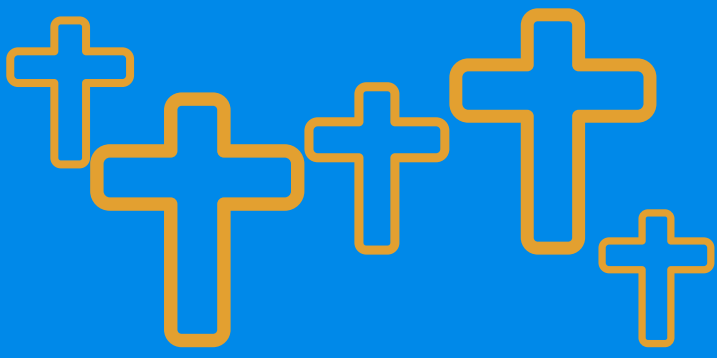
Challenge

Jesus tells this part of the story to challenge our hearts. **Pride distances us from the Father** just as much as rebellion does. **God doesn't want rule-followers who miss His heart—He wants sons and daughters who live in His presence and rejoice in His grace**. The Father lovingly pleads with the older brother to come inside and celebrate, just as He invites us to lay down pride, comparison, and entitlement. In the end, the question isn't whether we've been bad or good—it's whether we'll **humble ourselves, run to the Father, and rejoice in His grace for us and others**.

Questions

- Why do we sometimes struggle with thinking highly of ourselves and lowly of others? How can we change that?
- Have you ever harbored resentment against someone because of their failures?
- How can you embrace the Father's heart this week in your community?





WEEK THREE

The Prodigal Son is a great parable, and the principles taught in it are for all people. In Luke 15:20-24, you see the Father's response. A man whose money, the younger sons inheritance, was just wasted on wild living and now the younger son comes back home. In our world, the typical response from a father would be "I told you so" or "Don't you ever show your face here again." But the father in the parable sees the son far in the distance and begins running towards him to embrace him. He tells his servants to kill the fattened calf in order to throw a feast because his son is now back home.

So, there's a reason to celebrate.

God is the same way with us. We can be so far from God. We could have the longest rap sheet in the world of all the wrongs we've done or the mistakes we've made but if we come back to the Father and ask for his love, just like in the story, God is ready with the family ring, to restore us to who we are meant to be.

Challenge

You may know about Gods love. You have a "Sunday School Knowledge" that God loves all people. But when is the last time that you asked God to show you His love. Do that and you will see Gods creation with your eyes opened to truly how much God loves you!

Questions

- Share a time when you grew in your understanding of God because of a close experience with Him.
- If you are willing, share some of the fears and misconceptions of God you have struggled with before. (Ex. How could God love me, does God care about me, etc.)
- What is standing in the way of receiving God's love fully?
- How can you ask God to pour out His love this week? How will you practice receiving it?