

CTK Community Group Sermon Discussion Questions & Announcements

Week of 3/19/23

DISCUSSION: [Luke 15:1-3, 11-20a](#)

(Discuss the question cluster below - as much or as little as works for your group)

Feel free to break off into smaller groups if it helps you share more personally

We're in a sermon series called, "Belonging." In it we'll focus on the parable of the prodigal sons in Luke 15. The parable is a story meant to change our lives. It shows us who belongs to God, how we belong to him (and each other), and what's truly valuable to God. The hope is that in increasingly knowing that we truly belong to God and to each other, we will increasingly thrive.

- 1. This week, our passage (Luke 15:1-3, 11-20a) focused on the younger son returning home and the ways we're called home by God. The sermon focused on: 1) What calls us home (v.14-18) and 2) What holds you back (v.18-19)? Through this we discovered that what calls us home is an encounter with real emptiness and the realization that we led ourselves there. And what gets in the way of our full return once we recognized we need to go home is fear that we won't be accepted and the difficulty of coming back empty handed, with nothing to justify our belonging. Let's discuss how these things impact our lives.*
 - A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?*
 - B. Can you identify with the younger son's fear that what he did wrong (v.12-13) couldn't be overcome "I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants" (v.19)?*
 - 1. Do you tend to think God is hesitant to forgive you?*
 - 2. How would you relate differently to God if you really felt like Jesus finished it all on the cross? Would you talk to God differently in prayer? Share your life or fears differently?*
 - C. Do you struggle to come back to God "empty handed" — just as you are, with all your faults and without any justification for why he should accept you?*
 - 1. What's tempting about wanting to have something to 'offer' God to be accepted - whether that's feeling sorry enough, doing something good to make up for things, etc.?*
 - 2. What are some of the hidden costs that come along with having something to bring to God to be accepted? (I.e., all the effort wears you out, it makes you feel like you're only worth something if you perform, it makes you judge others who don't do what you do to feel better about yourself, etc.)*
 - D. Is there some part of your life where you feel like, "this isn't the life I want to live?"*
 - 1. Where might God be inviting you to come home from something that you're increasingly recognizing just leads to emptiness?*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- For Holy Week this year, we will be participating in a tenebrae service with other Cambridge-area churches. The service will be held at Pentecostal Tabernacle (56 Magazine St., Cambridge), on Good Friday, April 7th at 7:30p.