

## CTK Community Group Sermon Discussion Questions & Announcements

Week of 4/2/23

### DISCUSSION: [Luke 15:1-3, 11-32](#)

(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're focusing 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 through increasingly knowing that we truly belong to God and to each other, we will increasingly thrive.*

- I. This week, our passage (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32, esp. vv.25-32) looked at the character of the Older Son. The sermon focused our time in the text on: 1) What the Older Son is like (v.25-30); 2) What that reveals; and 3) How do 'Older Sons' come home? (v.31-32). Through that we learned that the Older Son really only obeys in order to get something from his Father. Not out of love for him. So, he shows us you can obey all the rules, but still be just as far from really knowing God as your Father as if you never kept any of them. But there is still hope for Older Son types to come home. That happens through trust that God really does want you there and gratitude that you can come home on the same terms as the Younger Son. Let's discuss how these things impact our lives.*
  - A. What connected with you from the sermon or from the passage?*
  - B. Do you think of yourself as an Older Son type? (Even if not, we all have this tendency at some point)*
    - 1. What about his character traits (v.25-30 - hard working, reliable, responsible, angry, jealous, complaining, resentful) resonate with you?*
  - C. Do you find it difficult to trust that God really wants you home with him?*
    - 1. What makes you feel like he might not?*
    - 2. How does hearing that your performing and obeying has nothing to do with his desire for you impact the way you think about his acceptance of you?*
    - 3. Where do you need God to help you let go of the trust you have in performing to be loved so you can receive God's love and acceptance for free?*
  - D. What's difficult (or helpful) about the call to come home through gratitude, rather than to stay in resentment?*
    - 1. Is there a particular area where you feel resentful, hurt, etc., that you need the Holy Spirit's help to start finding ways to rest a bit in gratitude?*

### 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.
- There will also be a sunrise service on Easter at 6:30a, followed by a simple breakfast. Our normal service will also remain at 10:30a that morning.