

# The Need for Acceptance

### Questions

1. What illustration, story, or example stood out to you this week?
2. Share about your relationship with your earthly father. Compare that to how your heavenly Father views you. How does that similarity or difference affect how you think God loves you?
3. What lies from the enemy do you believe, or have you believed in the past?
4. Read Luke 15:11-32. Which of the sons in Luke 15 do you identify with the most? The prodigal who ran away from his father and then wanted to come home as a servant or the son who was with the father the whole time but was resentful of his brother who had come home?
5. Pastor Ron said, "You are the most accepted you will ever be by the person [God] that knows you best." How does that resonate with you?
6. How do you respond to the realization that God's love for you is freely given rather than earned?
7. What one practical step do you plan to implement from this week's message?

### Scripture References

Read Luke 15:18-20, 29-31; Psalm 51:16-17;

### Takeaways

- Lies the enemy wants us to believe:
  - If I'm good, God will be more pleased with me.
  - If I'm bad, God will give me the cold shoulder.
  - When things are going badly, it's because God is punishing me.
  - My worth is really made up of other's opinions of me and my performance in life.
  - I have to keep God's standards in order to keep God's love.
  - I don't belong with God, and if I do, it's only in a slave/servant sort of way.
- You are not a slave to God! You are His son or daughter.
- It's easy for someone to accept the good things you have to offer but when someone accepts your brokenness and faults, you're probably looking at the work of God.
- Some of our deepest needs:
  - Acceptance and approval
  - Worth not tied to performance
  - Safety and protection
  - A future that is hopeful
- Only your Heavenly Abba, Father can meet your deepest needs.

Week 1:

# The Need for Acceptance

**MY DEEPEST NEEDS**

- When the lies speak louder than the Truth this week, take sides with God.