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Come Home

Discussion Guide
October 28, 2018
Luke 15:11-32

Questions for Study

**** Before you begin, please read Luke 15:11-32 as a group.**

1. Think about a time when you arrived back at home after a long stay away from your family (maybe a week away at a camp, a semester away at college, coming home for the holidays, etc.). What sort of reception did you receive by your family? Were you ever concerned there wouldn't be a warm welcome?
2. Look closely at Luke 15:11-12. How does the younger son leave home? How would this have been culturally offensive?
3. The younger separates himself from the loving relationship of his father. In what ways is this a picture of our own sin?
4. Now focus in on Luke 15:17-24, and answer the following questions:
 - How does the younger brother expect to be received when he returns home? Why?
 - How does the father actually receive him?
 - Put yourself in the younger son's shoes. How do you think he felt, after his father embraced him and called for a party?
5. There's a second son in this parable we can't ignore. Look closely at Luke 15:25-32. Where is the older son located while the party is going on for his younger brother? How does the father respond to this older son?
6. In vv. 28-30, we see the older son resist the father and what the father is doing. What's different about the older son's mindset, as compared to the father's?
7. What's wrong with the response of the older brother? What might an "older brother" look like today?
8. Are there ways you see yourself in either the younger brother OR the older brother? Explain.
9. What should we learn from this parable, about God's love for us?
10. In what ways have you experienced the extravagant love of God when you "came home" to Him? Explain.
11. How can you help others experience this freeing, abundant nature of God's love?