



## **Big Idea:**

No matter how far you've strayed, you can always come home to the Father. The Father's love pursues the rebellious, restores the repentant, and even confronts the self-righteous.

### **1. When you want freedom more than the Father** (Luke 15:11–13)

The younger son demands his inheritance early, essentially treating his father as though he were already dead. He wanted the father's possessions without the father's presence. Believing freedom could be found away from home, he leaves for a far country and begins living recklessly. Yet the father responds not with force or control, but with patience and hope-filled love.

#### ***Application Questions***

1. What did the younger son ask his father for while his father was still alive?
2. Why do people desire freedom away from rules?
3. Why is patience sometimes a greater expression of love than control?

### **2. When life apart from the Father falls apart** (Luke 15:14–20a)

After wasting everything, the younger son experiences famine, desperation, and humiliation. He moves from the father's house to the pigpen. The famine exposes what he truly depends on and becomes the turning point that brings him to repentance. Sometimes God uses valleys and brokenness to awaken us to our need for Him.

#### ***Application Questions***

1. What happened after the younger son spent all he had?
2. What does the pigpen symbolize in the life of the prodigal son?
3. Have you ever experienced a "famine" season that revealed your need for God?

### **3. When you return home in repentance** (Luke 15:20b–24)

Before the son can even finish his speech, the father runs to him, embraces him, and restores him. The robe, ring, and sandals are symbols of restored identity, dignity, and sonship. The father does not merely tolerate the son's return; he celebrates it joyfully. The heart of the gospel is that sinners can come home because of the Father's grace.

#### ***Application Questions***

1. How did the father respond when he saw his son returning home?
2. What do the robe, ring, and sandals reveal about the father's heart?
3. Why do people sometimes allow shame to keep them from returning to God?



## COME HOME

Luke 15: 11 - 32 | Pastor Caleb Kelly

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### **4. When self-righteousness replaces compassion - Reflect** (Luke 15:25–32)

The older brother becomes angry over the celebration and refuses to rejoice. Though physically close to the father, his heart is distant. He sees his brother only through the lens of past mistakes and exposes his own pride and resentment. Jesus uses the older brother to confront the Pharisees and scribes, revealing the danger of religious pride without the Father's heart.

#### ***Application Questions***

How did the older brother respond to his brother's return?

What does the older brother's character teach us about self-righteousness?

How can someone be near the Father yet still not know His heart?