



The Parable of the Elder Brother

Icebreaker: Hot Cocoa or Hot Apple Cider?

Read Together: Luke 15:25-32 (NIV)

Discuss:

- What do you see that you have not noticed before in the scripture for this section?
- Both boys were in Rebellion. Different ways of showing it. Older Brother syndrome.
- How dare you use your resources in a way that I don't agree with?
- They both wanted the stuff of the Father without the relationship with the Father.

Read Together: Luke 15:25-32 (NIV)

Discuss: Symptoms of "the elder brother syndrome"

- **Projects judgment towards others and God.**
- **Inflated view of their own righteousness.**
- **Misunderstanding of God's grace.**
- Do you make excuses for the acts of your flesh?
- Do you find that others say you are blinded to anything except your own feelings?
- Do you find yourself thinking that you deserve better than another person?
- Do you ever notice yourself trying to earn your own righteousness?
- Do you ever ask for stuff from the Father without pursuing a relationship with the Father?

Read Together: Matthew 20:8-15 (The Message)

Discuss: The loving father's message to the elder brother.

- What part of this scripture for this section sounds like the Older Brother?
- Do you struggle to recognize that God cherishes YOU, not your works?
- The Brothers both wanted the stuff of the Father without the relationship with the Father. How often do you see that in the church?
- Our Position in Christ gives us all that He has as ours. How do you take that?
- God wants you to enjoy His party. Are you able to rejoice with Him when He celebrates another person?
- Are you going to go to the party or will you stay outside and wallow in judgment toward God?

- We don't know how the story ended!! How does that settle in your spirit?

Pray:

- Ask God to help you rejoice when He rejoices.
- Ask God to give you grace for others that you do not like.
- Ask God to give you contentment that Knowing Jesus, means you have everything that the Father has as well.