

**The Kingdom of God**  
**Lesson 9: The Parable of the Lost Boys (Part 2)**  
**LifeWalk Leader Guide**

**Open/Icebreakers:** Growing up, did you ever label a person “teacher’s pet?” How would someone earn that distinction? Rank yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 assessing your level of rule following. 10 means you are a total conformist and 1 means you were a rebel.

**Digging In:** Luke 15:25-32

1. How did the older brother find out about the return of his brother? What might this say about his relationship with the father?
2. Why would the older brother be angry about the return of the younger? How did the older brother fail to understand his father?
3. Discuss the older brothers’ response to his father. Does he have a point? What does the older brother mean when he says “this son of yours?” How did the father respond to his son? What do you learn about the father from his response?
4. This parable was told to tax collectors and sinners as well as Pharisees and scribes. Of the two, which do you think the “older brother” represents? What point is Jesus trying to communicate to this group?
5. Do we participate in the attitude of the older brother? If so, how? What does this say about how we may misunderstand who God is?

**Reflection:**

1. Why is it easy for those who are “inside” the church to miss the point of this parable?
2. How can your group unite to become more like the father rather than foster the attitude of the older brother? How does this parable challenge you?
3. Why did the parable end without a response from the older brother to what his father said?
4. How do the 3 parables in Luke 15 fit together?

**Prayer:** God, help me see people as you see them. Help me ascribe unsurpassable worth to everyone. Thank you for Jesus and His sacrifice. Holy Spirit, move my heart to love and service.