

# THE TRUE ELDER BROTHER

April 13, 2025

## MESSAGE RECAP

Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son not just to highlight the younger brothers who wandered, but to challenge those who resemble the older brother – faithful, responsible, and perhaps bitter. The older brother couldn't celebrate his younger sibling's return, revealing a heart that was close to obedience but far from grace. This message is a challenge to those of us who've walked with God for a while. Have we forgotten our own rescue story? Are we willing to join Jesus in His rescue mission for others? Are we willing to join the party when lost sons come home?

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Can you think of a time when you felt overlooked or unappreciated while someone else was celebrated? How did you respond?
2. Read Luke 15:11-32 out loud before beginning the discussion.
3. The Heart of the Older Brother: Luke 15:28-30
  - a. What emotions do you notice in the older brother's response?
  - b. In what ways do you relate to his frustration or sense of unfairness?
4. Grace vs. Religion: Luke 15:31-32
  - a. What's the difference between serving God for love vs. duty?
  - b. How do you see this contrast play out in real life or your walk with God?
5. Why is it important to remember our own story of being rescued by Jesus?
6. What does it mean for something to not be your fault, but still be your responsibility?
7. Why do you think Jesus left the older brother's response unresolved?
8. What are some "lost ones" in your world that God may be calling you to pray and pursue?

## PRAY