



STUDY GUIDE – November 24, 2019

Message Title: Lavish Love
Teaching Pastor: Brian C. Hughes

This study guide has been designed for Small Groups in mind, and can be used by individuals as well.

Check-in: (10 mins) What can we celebrate about your past week? How can we pray for you today?

Pray for our time together, that the Holy Spirit would instruct us and guide our conversation.

Get Started: (5 mins) Go around your group and have every group member answer these questions: Did you have brothers or sisters growing up and did you get along? Talk a little about your sibling relationships when you were growing up. Based on Pastor Brian's message on Sunday (based on Luke 15), do you see yourself more as the older son or the younger son?

Watch and Discuss the Video (30 mins).

Dive in: (15 mins)

- Read Luke 15:1-2 together
 - Why were the Pharisees so threatened by Jesus' eating with 'tax collectors and sinners?' Why did this bother them so much?
- To answer their concern, Jesus tells 3 parables in succession, one after another. If your group has more than 3 or 4 people in it, break into 2 groups.
 - Group 1: Read together Luke 15:3-7. What's the basic synopsis of this parable? What is Jesus trying to say about how God relates to people? What does this have to do with the concern of the Pharisees that Jesus spends time with 'tax collectors and sinners'?
 - Group 2: Read together Luke 15:8-10 What's the basic synopsis of this parable? What is Jesus trying to say about how God relates to people? What does this have to do with the concern of the Pharisees that Jesus spends time with 'tax collectors and sinners'?
- Come back together and discuss your findings.
- Now, as one group, taking turns reading (only those who are comfortable reading outloud), read together Luke 15:11-32. BE SURE TO STOP along the way as group members have questions. So if someone is reading, just give permission to everyone in the group to simply speak up, interrupting the reading, to say, "I don't understand" or "why is that happening" or to make an observation like, "I had that happen once" etc.

- In Sunday's message, Pastor Brian said that both brothers leave home. One on blatant sin and disrespect for the Father, the other in self-righteousness as a disguise for insecurity. Do you agree? (It's ok to disagree with Pastor Brian!) Why or why not?
- Summarize how the Father relates to the younger son.
 - For the Father to accept the younger son back home, did he HAVE To come home remorseful? What if he came home but was not sorry...would the Father have reacted differently? Why or why not?
 - How do you feel about the way the Father accepted the younger son? Was it fair? Would you have welcomed him home if you had been there?
- Summarize how the Father relates to the older son.
 - The parable leaves us hanging...we're not told what the older son did after the Father explains his decision. Speculate: what might have happened?
 - How do you think the older son SHOULD have reacted after the Father's talk with him?
- For the Parable of the Prodigal Son, what is Jesus trying to say about how God relates to people? What does this have to do with the concern of the Pharisees that Jesus spends time with 'tax collectors and sinners'?
- There could be a powerful moment of repentance for some folks in your group - for leaving for the distant country OR for being self-righteous. Either way, the Father wants his children to come home, and it's worthwhile to pray for members of your group who are ready to do that right now.

Reflect: (15 mins) What about Sunday's service impacted you the most?

Commit: (10 mins) What are you going to do this week in response to this week's small group study and/or service?

Pray: (5 mins) Pray for the group members and the commitments made above.