



STUDY GUIDE

December 18, 2022

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

Home
Leaving Home
Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

Describe your relationship with your siblings. If you are an only child, describe what it was like growing up without siblings.

Pray:

Dear Lord, we are so grateful to be in relationship with you. Please quiet our hearts and remove all distractions so we can clearly hear the personal message You have for us. Show us the truth in Your Word. Thank You that You are a good and loving Father, and we are Your children. Help us to walk out this reality in our everyday lives. We pray all of this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Get Started: (15 min.)

Read Luke 15:11-30.

- What is your honest reaction to the father's response to the youngest son? Do you think the father was fair or not? Explain.
- What is your honest response to the older brother's complaint? Do you agree with him in any way? Explain.

Watch and Discuss Video (running time 11 min./15 min. discussion)

Read Matthew 7:3-5.

- What is the correlation between this scripture and the parable of the prodigal son?

Pastor Bryan talked about how reading God's word elicits conviction and compassion, and that self-examination leads to accepting grace from God. Then, we see clearly that we can help our brothers and sisters connect to a God who can do the same for them.

- Describe your experience with reading God's Word? Do you agree with Pastor Bryan?

Reflect and Commit: (20 - 30 min.)

"There's something deeper than a sense of unfairness with the elder brother. He's jealous...resentful...bitter. He's...insecure. And that insecurity has morphed into self-righteousness. It's ironic to me that we try to hide our insecurity behind acts of self-righteousness that make us seem VERY secure. We work hard, play by the rules and do the right thing, but often our motive is our own sense of insecurity that we might be left out, that someone might be loved more. So, we set ourselves up to look better on the outside. That's what the older son did. He looked good on the outside and with his actions, but in reality, he was just as lost as the son who openly rebelled. He had left the love of the Father just like his brother did, except he did it without ever leaving home. The insecurity lay in his conclusion that the father's love had to be earned - which motivated him to work hard and obey. He didn't do those things out of his own love for his Father. Ironically, for the older son, work and obedience were also a form of rebellion - also a way of leaving the essence and the goodness and the pure love of home." - Pastor Brian Hughes

- Do you agree or disagree with the statement that the older son was just as lost as the younger son? That work and obedience were a form of rebellion? Explain your answer.
- With whom do you most identify - the older or the younger son? Why?

“The story isn’t about the older brother...and it isn’t about the younger one. It’s about the Father. And the word Prodigal? It means Lavish. This story is about the lavish Love the Father has for both of his boys. And his desire for BOTH to be home. One son squandered the father’s goodness on blatantly sinful things. And every day the Father stood on the edge of the field and waited for him to come home. The other son squandered his father’s goodness in an internal battle of comparison and good works. And the Father left the party to say, “Everything I have is yours, too.” - Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Luke 15:31-32.

- Have you learned something that you didn’t know before after hearing the message and discussing with your small group? If so, share briefly.

Read Romans 5:6-8 & 1 John 4:10.

- Reflecting on these verses, what is your response to the great length that your Heavenly Father has gone to make it possible for you to “come home” to Him again?
- Just like the prodigal son, is there anything in your life God is prompting you to change as a result of His invitation to come home? Share briefly.

*“I believe that the spiritual truth here is the entirety of the Gospel - the good news of Jesus. And that takes us to this moment right here. Coming home - truly coming home - means accepting the truth of who Jesus is and what He did to make a way for us TO come home. Jesus, God himself, made the sacrifice he didn’t have to for the sole purpose of you coming home.... Right now, let’s get real about leaving home...and coming home again. Because all of us have done the former and all of us CAN do the latter, too. We all left home. We can all come home.”
- Pastor Brian Hughes*

Gather prayer requests and pray. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You that You have made a way through Jesus for us to come home to You. Let us put aside our pride and rebellion and accept Your love and forgiveness and the price that Jesus paid for us. Thank You that we are heirs to the King. Help us to embrace that and point others to You, our compassionate Father. It is in Christ’s name we pray. Amen.