



SEIZE THE DEI

5 LIFE-CHANGING TRUTHS ABOUT GOD

The Love of God

Pastor John will be kicking off a new sermon series this Sunday titled, “Seize the Dei,” where he will be addressing five life-changing truths about God. In week one, he will begin by focusing on the love of God. In lifegroup this week, we’ll be looking at the prodigal son passage from the father’s perspective and seeing what we can learn about God through that. The discussion questions are meant to guide us through considering how the father might have felt throughout the story. The hope is for us to get a glimpse of what God’s love for us is like.

Introduction Question: What’s something that’s happened to you recently that made you feel really loved?

Bible Study: Luke 15:11-32

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. **13** “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. **14** After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. **17** “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! **18** I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ **20** So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. **21** “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22** “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. **24** For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. **25** “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. **27** ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ **28** “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. **29** But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a

young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him! 31 “My son,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

Possible Discussion Questions:

- 1) How might the father have felt when his youngest son asked for his share of the estate?
- 2) Why might the father have given his son what he asked for?
- 3) What do you notice about the way the father received his son back? Why do you think he reacted in this way?
- 4) What kind of misunderstandings of the father did the younger son have? The older son?
- 5) What do we learn about God from the father in this story?
- 6) What can we learn about our possible misunderstandings of God from the sons?

Application Questions:

- 1) What might God want to say to me through this text?
- 2) What am I going to do this week as a result?