



The Story You Tell Yourself

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Q—What is the story you tell yourself?

Luke 15:11–12 , 17-20, 28-30 (NIV)

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the

world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:9–10 (NIV)

Today's Core Truth: At the cross, Jesus flipped the script and rewrote our story.

⇒ **We are no longer _____ but accepted.**

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, Romans 8:1 (NIV)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7 (NIV)

⇒ **We are no longer _____ but sons and daughters.**

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. Romans 8:15–17 (NIV)

⇒ **We are no longer _____ but more than conquers.**

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31 (NIV)

Closing Challenge: Live loved!

ANSWER KEY: condemned, slaves, victims



Study & Discussion for Your Next Small Group

Theme: The Father's Invitation

Share Together: Where or who can you be with and just be yourself, and why?

Reflect Together: What impacted you most from Sunday's message and why?

Read Together: Luke 15:11-32

Discuss Together:

- What can you speculate was the motivation of this younger son wanting to leave his father? Would you have responded the same if you were the father? Why or why not?
- How is the son's wake-up call in verse 17 a reflection of God's grace? Do you have a similar story where you "came to your senses"?
- What about the son's rehearsed speech revealed that in his shame he misunderstood the unconditional love of his father? How do we do the same in our sin and failures?
- How does Jesus' depiction of the father's response compare to our heavenly Father? Why do we struggle so much with truly believing and accepting unconditional love?
- After the father welcomed home the younger son whole-heartedly, why do you think the older son didn't react so positively to his return?
- What is the challenge of being an "older son"? What are some issues that can cause a person who is considered the "older son" not to go to the party?
- Who was the older son really angry with? Why? Who was he blaming? Why could he not accept the unconditional love of his father?
- How do you see Jesus fulfilling "the elder brother" role of the story through dying on the cross for us?
- Which son do you relate with the most - the one who felt shame, or the other one who blamed? Based on your answer, how could you use prayer to fully embrace the unconditional love of our perfect father?

Pray Together (or in smaller micro groups)