

The Elder Son • Luke 15:25-32

Small Group Questions



- In many ways, the elder son did all the right things. As such, was he justified in being angry toward his brother and refusing to join the celebration?
- How did he misunderstand his relationship with his father?
- Re-read Ephesians 2:1-10. What strikes you about God's grace?
- Which do you find harder—to receive God's grace or to extend God's grace? In what ways are these connected?
- In the context of the parable, one cannot be a son without being a brother. Are there Christians you have a difficult time embracing as brothers (or sisters)?
- Consider the following response to the question "How do non-Christians view Christianity?"

I find Christianity to be off-putting and vaguely threatening. It is, after all, part of the religion to proselytize and historically, this has led to Christian violence against non-Christians or even against Christians of other denominations. Evangelicals, especially, come across as bigoted, superstitious, and closed minded... I realize that this is a generalization. I have known individual Christian people that have been generous, loving, and kind. As a group though, Christians have always appeared to me to be autocratic, intolerant, and arrogantly sure that they have the only true faith, and everyone else is doomed to be tortured for eternity unless they convert.

<https://www.quora.com/How-do-non-Christians-view-Christianity>

- How would you respond to this comment?
- How can we hold Christian values without becoming judgemental toward those who don't?
- What is the relationship between grace and truth (justice)?
- Which son do you most identify with in this parable?