

no place like HOME

Life Group Questions: Don't Miss The Party

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Read

Luke 15:25-32

Reflect

Fairness is a concept that is deeply ingrained in our culture. We believe that everyone should receive what he or she deserves, both good and bad. While there is nothing inherently wrong with either of these attitudes, we see them turned on their head in the story of the prodigal son. The son who has worked hard receives nothing, while the son who sinned was welcomed home with a party. Jesus' listeners expected him to condemn the younger brother but his story actually criticizes the older brother. In the same way, we need to be aware of our own hearts – do we have an older brother spirit?

Pastor Greg gave us four ways to recognize an older brother spirit:

1. He is angry
 - a. Being angry isn't always wrong. When we see injustice or sin, anger is a natural response. But anger can sometimes point to an older brother spirit. What makes you angry? Do you ever become angry at someone else's success? What are some clues that can help us realize when our anger is the result of an older brother spirit?
2. He feels superior
 - a. Think of the last time you listened to commercials on the TV or radio – how many of them told you that you “deserved” their product? The message that we deserve to have what makes us happy is a recipe for an older brother spirit. We feel superior towards anyone who we believe hasn't worked as hard as we have. Do you ever see feelings of superiority in yourself? What is the source?
3. He has joyless, fear-based compliance
 - a. The older brother obeyed the father, but not out of love. Who are you serving because you “have to?” What is the source of these feelings? How can you begin to change that?
4. He lacks the assurance of the father's love
 - a. When we lack an assurance of love, we usually respond with feelings of jealousy and insecurity. The older brother is upset by the party because he sees it as evidence that his father does not love him. Do you really believe that God loves you? If this is hard for you, what are the reasons for your insecurity?

What was your biggest take-away from the weekend message?

Respond

- What do you feel like God is asking you to do in response to the weekend message? What is your next step?
- How can your Small Group support you and hold you accountable in this?

