



Home Group Discussion Questions Differing Approaches to Separation Luke 15:11-32

I. **Getting Started**

What's your reaction to parables in the Bible? How much do you find them easy to understand or helpful in grasping the bigger meaning? Why do you think Jesus intentionally shifted to using parables when He knew that many people wouldn't immediately understand them (think about the fact that even His own disciples had to ask Him for the meaning of certain parables on occasion)?

II. **Discussion Questions: Read Luke 15:11-32 (have different people in the group read sections)**

- a. With which of the three characters in the story do you most relate? Why?
- b. What would have been so shocking about the behavior of the younger son in that culture?
- c. How might the older son have been perceived in that culture?
- d. What might the younger son have expected from his father as he was walking home?
- e. Put yourself in the shoes of the father. How do you think you might have responded when you saw the son coming your way?
- f. Is there anything about the father's response that you find difficult or disturbing?
- g. What's your response to the reaction of the older son? To what degree can you understand his reaction?
- h. To what degree might the response of the older son still be evident in some churches today?

III. **Prayer and reflection:** Don't rush past this parable. It's designed to poke and prod. Think about what this story reveals about your own heart. How much is your reaction similar to that of the older brother? To whatever degree that's true, pray that the Lord would help you cultivate more of the Father's heart for even the most significant sinners.