

### **Message Study Guide**

(Scriptures & quotes from this week's message are available on [thorncreek.church/live](http://thorncreek.church/live))

#### **Warming up**

1. Have you ever been CONVINCED of something to be 100% true, only to find out you were wrong?

#### **Digging Deeper & Application**

Take your time reading the scripture given. If possible look up the verses in different versions and pause at each verse and discuss it.

2. Have you ever been convinced of something, only to discover that you were wrong the whole time?
3. The parable of the prodigal son has multiple interpretations based on which person you are looking at in the story...Read Luke 15:11-30 together.
4. Which son was wrong? The younger or the older?
  - a. TRICK QUESTION! Both are wrong!
  - b. What did the older son do wrong in the story? And the younger?
5. What was the root issue with the older son?
6. Timothy Keller said *"The prerequisite of receiving the grace of God is to know that you need it."* Can a person have the grace of God given to them, but never fully receive that grace?
  - a. What does that look like in a person today?
7. What does a person who has been changed by the grace of God look like?
8. John Ortberg said *"One of the hardest things in the world is to stop being the prodigal son without turning into the elder brother."* What does John Ortberg mean by this?
9. What is the key for Christians to do in order to be more like the father and less like either brother?

10. Do you think it is possible that we have older brothers in the church today who are pushing younger brothers away?
  - a. If so, what do Christians need to start doing today?
  
11. Read Jonah 3:10 through 4:11
  - a. Which brother in the story reminds you of Jonah?
  - b. How are Jonah and the older brother similar?
  - c. How does God respond to Jonah that is similar to how the father responds to the older son in this parable?
  
12. Timothy Keller said *“Though the older son stayed at home, he was actually more distant and alienated from the father than his brother, because he was blind to his true condition...Because the elder brother is more blind to what is going on, being an elder brother Pharisee is a more spiritually desperate condition.”* Reflect on this quote...what does this mean for churches today?
  
13. What is one thing we can all do, starting today, to be less like either brother, and more like the father?

### **Application**

Below are some of the points or quotes shared in the message.  
Discuss how they apply to your life.

- Don't take for granted the season that you are in...You may be living in the good ol' days without even realizing you're in the good ol' days...and you never know what you have until it's gone.
- Pride is a CANCER that slowly destroys any remaining love in the human heart.
- “The prerequisite of receiving the grace of God is to know that you need it.” - Timothy Keller
- To RECEIVE God's grace is to live your life CHANGED by the GRACE OF GOD.
- God loves to BLESS the heart that is SOFT, HUMBLE and full of GRACE! The heart that is proud is HARD...It is difficult to manage.
- IF WE ARE NOT INTENTIONALLY SEEKING GOD...We will fall into a RUT of COMPLACENCY
- BE AUTHENTIC! STRIVE for GOD with 100% of your life!