

### **Message Study Guide**

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

#### **Warming up**

1. What is "self-centeredness" to you? Share a time when you saw this in action?

#### **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. Please read Luke chapter 15. Share your thoughts! What is God showing you?
3. Today, the text that we're focusing on is Luke 15:31-32. What was the son doing?
  - a. Was he inside or outside the house?
  - b. Do you think it was a mistake for the older brother not to go in the house? Why or why not?
4. In what ways do people sulk over things today?
  - a. Pastor Ruben shared how we can miss out on what God is doing if we have the wrong attitude and refuse to go in the house. Have you ever sulked over something?
5. What are your thoughts about this quote from Steven Cole? "There's a supreme irony in this story. The brother who was outside comes home and is welcomed inside to a feast. The brother who had never strayed, but who is probably hungry after working all day, remains outside, sulking."
6. What are your thoughts about this quote from Pastor Ruben? "You can be just like the older brother when you elevate your opinion above God's perspective. Just because it doesn't make sense in your eyes doesn't mean it's not right in God's eyes."
7. Based on these verses how would you describe the heart of God? Isaiah 55:1-3; John 7:37-38; Matthew 9:35-38; and Luke 19:10.

8. What are your thoughts about this quote from Pastor Ruben? "The kingdom of heaven is in desperate need for kingdom workers that have a daily spiritual burden that will take time to do anything to see a soul come to Jesus."
  
9. Why do some people go to church or call themselves "Christians", but don't have this spiritual burden or urgency?
  - a. At what point do they become complacent?
  
10. Do you have a spiritual urgency and burden that you live with every day?
  - a. How is it manifested at a tangible and visible level on a daily basis?
  
11. According to Luke 15, what makes God happy?
  - a. What is the reason for heaven to celebrate?
  - b. Should this make a difference to us? Why or why not?

### **Application**

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

- Just because it doesn't make sense in your eyes doesn't mean it's not right in God's eyes.
- What God chooses to do is not contingent on it making sense to you.
- You can get caught up in your own self-centeredness and miss out on what God is doing.
- God's an includer not an excluder.
- "Mercy stretches forth her hand to misery, it deals with demerit, unworthiness and worthlessness. Those who think themselves righteous are not the objects of divine compassion, but the unrighteous, the guilty and the undeserving, are the proper subjects for the infinite mercy of God." - Spurgeon
- The kingdom of heaven is in desperate need for kingdom workers that have a daily spiritual burden that will take time to do anything to see a soul come to Jesus.