



IceBreaker: When is the first time that you remember doing something that was really not wise and perhaps had some consequences that caused you to realize that?

Introduction *(Read aloud before discussion.)*

*We are looking at the famous parable in **Luke chapter 15** called **the parable of the prodigal son**. We are choosing to rename it, however, to be **the parable of the “irresistible father.”***

Sermon Discussion *(Use as a guide for dialogue; let God lead, and read the verses aloud.)*

1. What is a parable? Why did Jesus teach in parables?

Luke 15:11-12

2. What is the younger son saying to his father and why would that be so dishonoring?
3. What can we already tell about the character of the father?

Luke 15:13-16

4. Why would what happens to this boy be so shocking to a Jewish culture?
5. Even if the younger son wasn't talking about it, how do you think he felt in this season? How do we often feel when we have really screwed up?

Luke 15:17

6. How is “*coming to his senses*” connected with his father's servants having food to spare? What did it really mean for this young boy to *come to his senses*?

Luke 15:18-19

7. What stands out to you about this speech that the son is rehearsing that he plans to share with his “*father*”?

8. Do you think we have speeches? Do we have stuff that we tell ourselves about ourselves even if we never speak it?

Luke 15:20

9. What a moment! What stands out to you about this moment, and about what this father chooses to do?

10. How do you see someone when they are still a long way off?

Talk for a moment about the power of the gospel. The father seeing us, having compassion on us, running to us and hugging us and kissing us...

As a result of the gospel, we do change. In what relationship in our life would we like to act a little bit more like this father and what would that look like?

For further study and conversation...

Hosea 11:1-9

Romans 2:4

Ephesians 2:1-10