

Group Discussion Questions

The Truth About Lies: Receiving the Father's Love

“The way we see God determines the way we relate to God.” Sometimes we believe God is disappointed in us, that we must earn His approval, or that our mistakes have pushed Him away. In **Luke 15**, Jesus tells a story about two sons who misunderstood their father's heart. One ran away while the other tried to earn his father's approval. Yet the father lovingly pursued both. God's love is not something we earn through good behavior or lose because of our failures. Through Jesus, we are invited to receive His love and live as His children.

GET THINGS STARTED

1. From Chapters 6 and 7, what stood out to you most or challenged the way you think about God's love?
2. What are some ways people try to earn love, acceptance, or approval from others?
3. Why can receiving love sometimes be harder than giving it?

GO DEEPER

1. Read **Luke 15:11-24**. What did the younger son believe about his worth after his mistakes? How did his father's response challenge that belief?
2. Read **Luke 15:25-32**. How did the older son view his relationship with his father? What was he missing about his father's love?
3. The father went out to **both sons**. What does this reveal about God's heart toward those who run from Him and those who try to earn His approval?
4. Read **Romans 8:14-17** and **1 John 3:1**. What do these verses tell us about our identity as God's children? How should this change the way we approach Him?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. ***“The way we see God determines the way we relate to God.”*** How would you describe your picture of God as Father? What has shaped that picture?
2. Which son do you relate to more, the younger son who felt unworthy or the older son who tried to earn approval? Why?
3. Have you ever allowed your mistakes, performance, or difficult circumstances to determine how you think God feels about you? Do you believe God enjoys you?
4. Jennie Allen reminds us that God sent Jesus because **He wanted us**. What would change if you truly believed God not only loves you but also delights in you?

PRACTICE IT NOW

- Take a quiet moment and ask: *“Father, what have I believed about Your heart toward me that isn't true?”*
- Then ask, *“What would it look like for me to receive Your love instead of trying to earn it?”*
- Invite anyone to share. Pray for one another to release shame, stop striving for approval, and receive the Father's love.

We don't obey God to earn His love. We obey because we belong to Him.