

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT *(continued)*

4. This week we saw that the obedient brother lost sight of all he had gained through his faithfulness when he saw his brother being rewarded. In what areas of your life are you sometimes tempted to slip into the “older brother” mentality?

5. Read **2 Corinthians 5:18-20**. What do these verses tell us about the role we play in helping LOST (disconnected) people become FOUND (connected) people?

6. Being FULLY ENGAGED in the local church is one of the most effective ways to help people become a part of God’s family! As you reflect on your own life, what is your next right step towards full engagement with the mission of Westbridge Church?

7. Would you please take a moment and pray for this next season of Westbridge Church? Pray that God will continue to keep us on mission, and that we would be able to make an impact in the lives of many people!

## MESSAGE NOTES

### Why Does It Even Matter // Week 1

#### 4 things we learn from Jesus:

#### 1. People who were NOTHING like Jesus really \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus!

*Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people - even eating with them! **Luke 15:1-2***

#### 2. Jesus saw people through a different set of \_\_\_\_\_.

*So Jesus told them this story: “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away! **Luke 15:3-7***

*“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.” **Luke 15:8-10***

*“But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began. **Luke 15:22-24***

#### 3. The biggest hurdle to our mission is our personal \_\_\_\_\_.

*Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. “Your brother is back,” he was told, “and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.”*

*The older brother was angry and wouldn’t go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, “All these years I’ve slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!” **Luke 15:25-30***



## MESSAGE NOTES *(continued)*

4. The labels Jesus uses are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ !

*His father said to him, "Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!"* **Luke 15:31-32**

**What this means for Westbridge Church:**

We will always be more focused on \_\_\_\_\_ people than  
on \_\_\_\_\_ people!

### VERSE TO REMEMBER:

*"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."* **-Jesus**

**"Be doers of the word and not hearers..."** *James 1:22*



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Our groups are taking a break for the summer. Use these questions for personal study and reflection during the summer season, and our groups will launch again in the fall!

### INTRODUCTION

This week, we took a look at the story of the runaway son and what it implies for us a church as we move forward!

1. Did you ever run away from home when you were a kid? If so, why did you do it?

2. The son running away from home in **Luke 15** implies that the relationship with the father was already dead... the son was already disconnected relationally. As you think about your friends and family, are there people who you know are disconnected relationally from God who you would like to see connected to God? Write down their names and pray for an opportunity to express God's love to them this week!

3. In what ways do the following verses demonstrate God's great love for people?

***Ephesians 2:4-10***

***Matthew 9:36***

***2 Peter 3:9***

***Romans 5:6-8***