

# TAKEAWAY

## SEARCHLIGHT

### Frequently asked questions about life, faith and Jesus

#### WHAT'S THE POINT OF CHRISTIANITY?

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020

#### INTRODUCTION

On Sunday, we looked at the famous parable of the prodigal son. Originally, Jesus used this great story to challenge a group of very religious leaders about their attitudes, and to explain what God is really like. This story beautifully demonstrates that our faith is not about being irreligious / self-defining / selfish like the younger brother (which we are likely very aware of) or being religious / self-righteous / moralistic like the older brother (which we are likely more prone to as Christians) but about enjoying the embrace of the father who is willing to do anything to get us and waits with open arms.

#### READ

Luke 15:11-19

#### DISCUSS

1. The younger son takes his inheritance and heads off. What do you think motivated him to do this? What was he looking for?

2. Why does he go home? How do you think he expects to be greeted?

#### READ

Luke 15:20-24

#### DISCUSS

3. The father is delighted when his son come home! What does this little paragraph tell us about him?

4. What are the different ways the father could have responded? What would you have wanted to say to the son when he came home?

5. Why is the father so gracious?

#### READ

Luke 15:25-32

#### DISCUSS

6. The older son is not happy that his brother had returned – or that he has been forgiven. What do his words in this paragraph tell us about what he believes?

7. What is it that the older son is really looking for?

8. Which brother do you tend to be more like? How do you know?

9. From the outside, the church often looks like a gang of older brothers (like Jesus' audience!)

Why do you think this is? What can we do about it?

10. Look over the story again. How would you describe the father? What do you like about him?

#### PRAY

Spend time thanking God for who he is - for his patient love, boundless acceptance, and self-giving.

