HOW TO LOVE LIKE JESUS STUDY GUIDE

Luke 15:1–32

Observation questions

1. In Luke 15:1–2, who was gathering around Jesus, and why were the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complaining?
2. In the parable of the two sons (Luke 15:11–16), what did the younger son ask his father for? What happened after he left home?
3. According to Luke 15:17–24, what caused the younger son to come to his senses? How did his father respond when he returned home?
4. In Luke 15:25–32, how did the older brother react when he learned that his younger brother had returned? What did his response reveal about his relationship with his father?

Interpretation questions

1. The message explains that someone can spend years in the house of God without developing the heart of God. What does it mean to be near the Father but still not reflect His character? How does the older brother illustrate this?
2. Pastor Justin teaches that distance leads to disengagement, and disengagement leads to delusion. How does the younger son's journey demonstrate this progression? What does this teach us about the consequences of separating ourselves from God's will and community?
3. Why do you think the younger son believed he was no longer worthy to be called his father's son? What does the father's response reveal about God's grace, forgiveness, and the way He sees us?
4. The older brother was physically present in the father's house but struggled to celebrate his brother's return. What does this reveal about the difference between religious obedience and a heart transformed by God's love? How can we guard against becoming critical, prideful, or legalistic toward others?

BET ON GOD
STUDY GUIDE

Application questions

1. Recognize: Where in your life have you become distant from God, His will, or His people? Are there attitudes, habits, or decisions you have begun to justify that may be pulling you away from Him?
2. Examine your heart: Do you relate more to the younger son, who wanted the Father's blessings on his own terms, or the older brother, who struggled to share the Father's heart? What might God be revealing to you through that comparison?
3. Repent: Is there an area where you know God is asking you to change, but you have been putting it off? What specific decision can you make this week to align your life with His word rather than your own preferences?
4. Reconnect: The message talked about how sometimes we need to "switch the room" rather than leave the house. If you have experienced hurt, disappointment, or disconnection in a church community, what healthy step could help you seek support, healing, and renewed connection with God and His people?
5. Don't gamble with grace: Is there something you keep telling yourself you will address "tomorrow" in your relationship with God? What is one step of obedience you can take today instead of assuming you will always have another opportunity?