

**For The One**  
**Part 2—How to Welcome Someone Home**  
**Pastor Dave Patterson**  
**9.20.2020**

**USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE**

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon  
and some discussion questions for you to use to facilitate a discussion.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group.  
For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is not to get through the  
questions, but to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships.  
Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

***The law always tries to make us better from the outside-in but  
grace works from the inside-out.***

**[Hebrews 10:25, TPT]**

***This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together,  
as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each  
other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently,  
eager to encourage and urge each other onward as we  
anticipate that day dawning.***

**[Luke 15:1-3]**

***Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to  
Jesus teach. <sup>2</sup> This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious  
law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—  
even eating with them!***

So Jesus told them this parable:

**[Luke 15:8-10]**

*“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? <sup>9</sup> 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.’ <sup>10</sup> In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”*

**[Luke 15:11-24]**

*To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons. <sup>13</sup> “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. <sup>15</sup> He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything. “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’ <sup>20</sup> “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. <sup>22</sup> “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. <sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> 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.

***As long as we are self-sufficient, we don’t become  
God-dependent.***

**[Luke 15:25-32]**

<sup>25</sup> *“Now, the older son was out working in the field when his brother returned, and as he approached the house he heard the music of celebration and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called over one of the servants and asked, ‘What’s going on?’*

<sup>27</sup> *“The servant replied, ‘It’s your younger brother. He’s returned home and your father is throwing a party to celebrate his homecoming.’*

<sup>28</sup> *“The older son became angry and refused to go in and celebrate. So his father came out and pleaded with him, ‘Come and enjoy the feast with us!’*

<sup>29</sup> *“The son said, ‘Father, listen! How many years have I been working like a slave for you, performing every duty you’ve asked as a faithful son? And I’ve never once disobeyed you. But you’ve never thrown a party for me because of my faithfulness. Never once have you even given me a goat that I could feast on and celebrate with my friends like he’s doing now. <sup>30</sup> But look at this son of yours! He comes back after wasting your wealth on prostitutes and reckless living, and here you are throwing a great feast to celebrate—for him!’*

*<sup>31</sup> “The father said, ‘My son, you are always with me by my side. Everything I have is yours to enjoy. <sup>32</sup> It’s only right to celebrate like this and be overjoyed, because this brother of yours was once dead and gone, but now he is alive and back with us again. He was lost but now he is found!’”*

**1. Expect them to come home.**

***Faith is an expectation based upon the reality of what God is going to do in the future.***

***Expectancy creates a preparation for those that are on their way.***

**2. Run to them.**

**[John 20:21-22]**

***Then Jesus said to them... As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit”.***

***Grace believes, it runs, and it goes to the messes of people’s lives; God doesn’t show disappointment at your failure; He knows we are dust and that we are frail.***

**3. Invest in their welcome.**

## **FOR MONDAY—**

- 1. Jot down in a journal some beliefs and hopes for people in your sphere, raising your level of expectation for what God will do.**
- 2. Make calls this week to people you know who have been part of TFH and got disconnected. Go after the one!!**

## **TALK IT THROUGH**

- 1. How does expectation motivate preparation?**
- 2. When have you experienced safety through community? What should that look like in the Body of Christ? [Hebrews 10.25]**
- 3. Who has been on your “search and rescue” squad whenever you’ve started to drift or disconnect? How is God calling you personally to do likewise?**
- 4. Why do you think people can slip into the “older brother syndrome,” when it comes to restoration? How do we keep God’s personal grace for us in perspective?**
- 5. What do you think of the alternative title for the Luke 15 parable, as “The Father Who Ran.”? How does this gesture show that grace runs to the messes of people’s lives?**
- 6. How can we, as a church, invest in people and welcome them home?**