

GIG 4: Luke 15



Icebreaker

Have you ever had an incorrect perception of someone? Maybe someone you met during recruitment and were later surprised by after they became your brother/sister? Maybe it was someone you weren't excited to have as a brother/sister but with whom you later became great friends?

Read Luke 15: 1-3; 11-32

Feel free to read this passage aloud as a group or silently to yourselves.

Some Questions for Discussion

1. Why do you think the son asks for his inheritance? What do you think he is communicating to his father by asking for the inheritance?
2. Describe what you think the son did while he was in the distant country. What things in your fraternity/sorority and on your campus would represent life in the distant country today?
3. How would you describe the son's character?
4. Why do you think the son desires to return home? What makes him "come to his senses"?
5. Have you ever had a time of "coming to your senses" and making a radical life change (dui, flunking class, death in family, etc)?
6. How does the father greet this son? How would you expect him to greet him?
7. Describe what the older brother might be feeling/thinking.
8. How does the Father respond to the older brother?
9. How are the younger and older brother similar/different?
10. Do you relate to either of the brothers? If so, which one and why?
11. Jesus told this story to a group of people comprised of some that were "not too interested in religion" (tax collectors/sinners) as well as the "very religious" (Pharisees) types. What do you think he wants to communicate to each of these groups of people?
12. Describe the character of the Father. What do you think Jesus wants us to see about himself and about how he sees us through this image of the father?
13. Where would you say you are in your spiritual journey? In a distant country? At home but not feeling like a son/daughter? Coming to your senses? Partying with your father?...And, where do you want to be?