



From the message on January 18, 2026

Series: Reach the One - The Father's Love

Text: Luke 15:11-32

[From the Message](#)

God's love for us is the reason we belong. We may be tempted to think there are rules governing how we relate to God. But to our great surprise, God relates to us personally, with no middle-man. We owe God nothing but to return to Him. In this story, returning to God is an invitation to those whose hearts are far from God *and* nearby. The Father in the story expresses love for both "sons," but when the story ends, only one actually responds to the Father.

We must accept, celebrate, and emulate the Father's love. God's love for you is enough to flow through you. This year, you can reach a friend, family member, or acquaintance that God has put on your mind.

[Opening Interaction](#)

When was the last time you explained God's love to someone?

[Read the passage and discuss](#)

- What is Jesus teaching about God through this story?
- Read Luke 15:1. The younger brother in this story represents the "sinners" eating with Jesus. How does God feel about them? In what ways did this son struggle to return to God?
- Read Luke 15:2. The older brother correlates to those grumbling against Jesus. How does God feel about them? In what ways did this son struggle to return to God?
- Read Luke 15:20-24. This is a perfect picture of the Gospel. What does a person

need to know to be saved? Are you prepared to share God's love with them?

Encourage Each Other Through Prayer

Talk and pray together. Ask, how can this group pray for you today?

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