

REFLECTION GUIDE

3.10.24

INTRO

Jesus disrupted his day's religious and political status quo. He destroyed the notion that we should follow a set of rules so that we could feel or seem righteous and then separate ourselves from those we deem unworthy.

THOUGHTS

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for your compassion and love for those who are lost. Thank you for always seeking me when I lose my way. Help me to be someone who values everyone, loving them as you do. Increase my capacity to reach out of my comfort zone to welcome people into the light of your love. Amen

DIGGING DEEPER

- Have you ever been in a situation when you found yourself following all the rules, but your heart wasn't in it? Describe how that felt.
- Jesus was often accused of welcoming sinners and, in this passage, he shares three very vivid stories. Read Luke 15:1-32.
 - What stands out to you in these verses?
 - How do these stories demonstrate Jesus' embrace of the accusations against him?
 - How does it make you feel that in each story finding what was lost set off big celebrations?
- Pharisees labeled people "good" or "bad" and saw "bad people" as unlikely to change. Jesus saw people as "lost" rather than "bad" and demonstrated that what is lost can be found.
 - Can you remember a time you lost your way spiritually and needed finding?
 - Is it hard for you to view God as someone looking for a lost person rather than punishing a "bad" person? Why or why not?
 - The last we hear of the older brother is his father addressing his resentment. Why do you suppose Jesus left the older brother's story open-ended?
 - Has resentment or a sense of superiority ever caused you to withhold forgiveness?