



# LIFEGROUPS

Series: Arrival

Scripture: *Luke 15*

Date: April 4-5, 2020

Message: *Repentance*

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—[ LET'S START ]—

It's Holy Week. This year's Holy Week celebrations will look a little different than previous years. What are you looking forward to in the upcoming week? How could you use the situation that we find ourselves in this year as a platform for sharing the hope of the Gospel with others?

—[ LET'S TALK ]—

1. **GRATITUDE AND PRAYER:** What happened this past week that you are grateful for? What do you need prayer for? Take an extended time to pray for our world as we continue to deal with the impact of COVID-19. Pray also for the opportunities that we have to share the hope of Christ this Easter week. Pray for the courage to invite others to watch Wooddale's Easter service.
2. This weekend Pastor Dale preached on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. That is one of three parables that Jesus spoke about in Luke 15. Let's read the entire chapter, parable by parable, and break between parables to answer these questions:
  - What does this passage teach us about God?
  - What does it teach us about humanity?
  - Why is God teaching you in this passage?
  - Who do you know that needs to hear what God is teaching us through this passage?
3. Begin by reading Luke 15:1-7
4. Next read Luke 15:8-10.
5. Next read Luke 15:11-32.
6. Pastor Dale spent a lot of time talking about the crowd that gathered to hear Jesus share these parables. It was a crowd that included notorious sinners and Pharisees. What did you think of Dale's challenge for us to repent of goodness? What might that look like in our lives?

Not in a Wooddale teaching based LifeGroup? Visit [wooddale.org/LifeGroups/](http://wooddale.org/LifeGroups/) to get involved!

## —[ LET'S ACT ]—

We have an opportunity to share the hope of Jesus this week. As a group, visit Wooddale's Easter@Home page on the Wooddale website. You'll find all sorts of practical ways that you can celebrate Easter as a family and also make an impact on friends, co-workers and neighbors. Pray together that we would see a great movement of the Holy Spirit in our Easter worship services where many place their faith in Jesus Christ.

## —[ SERMON REVIEW ]—

- Below is an outline of this week's sermon:
- Luke wrote his friend Theophilus a letter that was meant to help Theophilus be certain about who Jesus is, why he came and how that's supposed to change a person's life and purpose. Luke 1-14 sets the stage for this week's passage in Luke 15. In these first chapters:
  - He began by showing that Jesus, the Son of God, was conceived and placed in the womb of a virgin girl by the Holy Spirit.
  - Jesus' birth into poverty set the tone for his mission; he came to demonstrate God's love for even the 'least of these,' people like the shepherds who first came to witness his arrival.
  - Luke described Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. This was a sign of Jesus' acceptance of his mission. He was about to be baptized in to death, burial and resurrection for the world.
  - Jesus spends 40 days in the brutal wilderness where without food and water he was severely tempted by the evil one. But, unlike Adam, Jesus – the second Adam resists temptation by clinging to the truth.
  - Jesus backed up his claims by demonstrating God's power through miracles.
  - Jesus sought out those who were considered the worst of sinners in order to forgive them.
  - Jesus called disciples who were invited to help spread the good news of God's love.
  - Jesus made a statement that his kingdom was inclusive of every kind of person, that his gospel can make even enemies into friends!
  - Jesus revealed his glory to Peter, James and John at the Transfiguration. The men witnessed the glory of Jesus. There could be no doubt that he was indeed the Holy Son of God.
  - A group of spiritual leaders known as the Pharisees listened to Jesus and then rejected him. They could not stand Jesus and would eventually plot his death.
- In Luke 15, Jesus was teaching a group of tax collectors and other notorious sinners. This made the Pharisees and the teachers of the religious law complain that Jesus was associating with such awful people. So, Jesus told a story. The story featured three characters.
  - The story featured a father and two of his sons.
  - The younger son insults his dad by asking for his portion of the inheritance, which was like saying, "I wish you were dead!" This was culturally inappropriate, and had it really happened, the son would have been in danger of being beaten or forbidden from ever coming home again.
  - In the story, the father gives the child what he wanted.

- The son squandered the inheritance. It got so bad that he, a Jewish boy, took a job feeding the pigs. He is so hungry he considers even eating their food.
- The boy decided to go home and confess to His father, knowing that his father's kindness to the ranch hands, the boy hopes that he will be treated the same.
- Everyone listening to Jesus had to be wondering, "Will the father accept this loser of a son? Will he beat him? Will he refuse and reject him?"
- When the father saw the son he did something unheard of and very undignified. He ran to his son, opened up his arms and swallowed him up in a hug and kiss of unconditional love. Before the son could ask for confession the father had already forgiven him!
- The father ordered that his son be given the best clothes, sandals be put on his feet, and the family ring placed on his finger. Then he ordered a banquet.
- Everything was going along smoothly until the older brother came home from working on what was left of the family farm after the father sold off a portion to give his son a share of the inheritance. When he heard what was happening he was so angry. He wondered how his father could do such a thing. He was literally using a part of his inheritance to throw a party. The younger brother deserved none of this.
- Imagine how Jesus' story would have felt to sinners. Imagine how it would have felt to the Pharisees.
- Jesus' point in all of this was that one's goodness can get in the way of God's grace.
- The Pharisees became more concerned about sin than the sinner and their own goodness than God's grace.
- Jesus ate with sinners because he saw their sinfulness but also saw their brokenness. He saw how so many of them came to believe that they were a lost cause to God. He wanted them to know that no person, no matter how sinful, was a lost cause. God was waiting with open arms full of grace and forgiveness.
- Jesus wanted the Pharisees to know that God had open arms and forgiveness for them too. That is what the father is trying to show his oldest son in the story.
  - What sin did they need to repent from? It wasn't their badness that they needed to repent of, it was their goodness.
- It can be easy to find ourselves working hard at trying to be good enough for God. When we see people who aren't trying as hard as we are we can easily feel justified in judging them.
- How do you know if you need to repent of any goodness in your life? Here are a few questions to answer:
  - Do you mind God using your resources in reaching and celebrating the recovery of those who are missing from his kingdom?
  - Do you seek to hang out with people who may have been labeled "bad" in order to show God's unconditional love and forgiveness?
  - Do you ever think that God owes you because you've been so good for him?

—[ NOTES ]—

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