**Pastor Demetric Felton Sr October 18, 2020**

**Lessons From A Benevolent Father**

Luke 15:1-3

**Key Truth:** The Father’s door is always open, and the Father’s message is always “welcome home.”

**The Story:** Luke 15:11-32

The tale of two sons.

W**hat We Learn:**

1. God loves you enough to allow you to live life your way.

2. Life apart from God will never satisfy the human soul.

A. Turning to God is the only option that makes sense.

3. Changing how we think begins the road back home.

4. God would rather forgive than punish us.

A. We don’t have to earn God’s love, we just need to accept it.

B. We don’t have to repay our sin debt, Jesus has paid it all.

C. We don’t have to live in our past failures when Jesus Christ

gives us a new future.

5. God’s forgiveness extends to the morally good and bad.

A. Morality doesn’t get us into heaven or hell.

1. Recognition of our sins and need for Jesus is our entry

into heaven.

2. A refusal to recognize our sins and need for Jesus will

get us into hell.

**Taking It Beyond The Walls:** Have compassion on those who don’t know Jesus Christ. Celebrate that you are forgiven by God. Embrace and celebrate everyone that trust Jesus Christ as Savior.

**Connection Group Homework**

Looking back at your notes, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

How would you define “grace”? What’s the difference between grace and mercy?

Have you ever been forgiven of something you’ve done? How did it feel to be welcomed back into a relationship?

Read Luke 15:11-16: What is this son really saying to his father?

Imagine you were the father in this story: how would you feel if your son tells you, “I want my share of the inheritance?”

Read Luke 15:3-7: What does the parable of the lost sheep tell you about your worth to God? How does it impact the way you view those who are wandering from the faith?

How does this story reveal more about the father than it does about the son? In the same way, how does our salvation experience glorify God, and not ourselves?

How did the older son react to the party the father threw for his brother? What do you think is the root of those negative feelings when someone sees another return to God?

Why is it important that we rejoice with those who have been found? Who can we pray for that needs to know Jesus Christ as Savior?