

SHELTER IN GRACE



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Part 4: Refuge in Acceptance

Definitions:

Acceptance: 1) the action of consenting to receive or undertake something offered, 2) the action or process of being received as adequate or suitable

Father: 1) a male parent, 2) a man who has begotten a child

Father Figure: Coach, mentor, teacher, counselor

Luke 15:

- 1- The Lost Sheep
- 8- The Lost Coin

Parable comes to us from the Late Latin word parabola, which comes from Greek parabolē, meaning "comparison"

- 11- The Lost Son
- ...which one were/ are you?

Big Ideas and Takeaways:

- The message from all these parables is clear, that God loves all of us, and when one of us is in trouble he will pursue the one, be it the lost sheep, the lost coin, or the lost son.
- The stories our ancestors passed down to our grandparents and then our parents, help us to understand how we ended up who we are! What is the story that you will tell about 2020, how will you share your story of faith and of family? We have a chance to change the current storyline.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS OR PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. What is the father role that you have in your life? Is your birth father also your father figure?
2. If you are a father, take some time to contemplate what role you inhabit?

Ponderings:

3. Does it surprise you to discover that your acceptance (receiving something offered) is a free gift from God in Christ rather than something you must earn or prove?
4. When you think about yourself or look in the mirror, do you think about or see someone who is as accepting as Jesus Christ Himself? Why or why not? Why does believing you are accepted mean so much in the way you live day-to-day?
5. In the message, we discussed the stories handed down in your family. Having the "His" story of Christ as well, how does this reality impact the story you will tell? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. James 2:1 says, *2 My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.*" Based on this reality, would you say that you are conscious of your favoritism? How does believing in the free gift of your instantaneous acceptance motivate and empower you to treat everyone with love and acceptance? Discuss...