

WHAT GOD IS REALLY LIKE

SERMON DISCUSSION WEEK 1

Quotable Moments:

- You can't live FOR God while living AGAINST those far from God.
- God is FOR those far from Him.

Key Things You Heard:

- The church is known more for what we are AGAINST than what we are FOR.
- Sin is anything that works against what God is working FOR.
- You can't be FOR God while living AGAINST those far from God.
- A parable is an untrue story to illustrate something that is true.
- Luke 15 includes three parables to show God's heart for those who are lost.
- Everywhere Jesus went, people who were not like him liked him.
- We represent God to those far from Him.

Pray: God, thank you for extending grace to me. So often, I have turned my back on you and gone my own way. Forgive me when I have acted like the older brother and have been a barrier to people turning to God. Help me to represent you to those far from you. I choose to live with your heart FOR people. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Moving Forward:

- Read Luke 15 daily for the next week.
- Memorize Luke 15:7.
- Commitment: I will invite _____ unchurched people to come sit with me on Easter. (Use the invite gift provided on Sunday)
- Re-watch and/or share the sermon with a friend. Go to rivertown.cc or the RCC App.

Questions for Group Discussion:

First Minutes: Tell a story about something that you lost. [optional Story Cards exercise]

- From your experience, what has the church been known to be against?
- How do those far from God get to know God? Why is it important for Christ-followers to represent we are FOR those far from God?
- Ask for volunteer(s) to read out loud Luke 15:20-32.
- Which of these statements challenge your thinking?
 - We can't get mad at lost things.
 - We can't expect lost people to behave like found people.
 - We won't be concerned with guilt by association.
 - We will be concerned with inspiring people to follow Jesus.
- How might you have acted like the older brother? What do you realize you need to confess as sin?
- In your group prayer time, pray for specific people who are far from God. Remembering confidentiality, write the names down and commit to pray daily for them.
 - (As a group, challenge each other, and consider doing a prize for whoever personally invites the most unchurched people for Easter).