Two Sides of the Story | Week 1

Apart from the Father, everyone is spiritually lost—some by breaking the rules, others by keeping them. Jesus tells of a Father who loved two very different sons, showing there is only one way home: through Him.

Conversation Starters (10 minutes)

- Looking back at this past week, where did you have opportunities to give, serve, or invite others to take a step toward Jesus? What happened?
- Is there an area of your life you've been avoiding bringing into the light? Take a moment to pray for courage to confess these areas to God and to another person.

Sermon Notes Review (15 minutes)

What caught your attention, stood out to you, or challenged you from this weekend's teaching?

Watch the Video (10 minutes)

- Prepare to watch the video by opening your Bible to Luke 15.

Group Discussion (45 minutes)

Starter Question from the Video:

1. What kind of rebellious are you: religious or irreligious?

Scripture Observation:

Option: For further study of this section of Luke, check out this 5-minute Bible Project video.

2. Read Luke 15:1-2. Who is gathering around Jesus in verse 1, and how do the religious leaders respond in verse 2?

Scripture Interpretation/Discussion:

3. Read Luke 15:11-13. Asking for his inheritance early was like telling his father, “I wish you were dead.” What does this request reveal about how the younger son viewed his father? Have you ever viewed God in that same way?
4. It’s not the depth of our sin that keeps us from God; it’s the height of our pride. Pride says, “*I am here because of all that I have done.*” Contrast this way of thinking with what Jesus says in Matthew 16:24.

Personal Application:

5. There are two ways to be lost — running from God, or trying to control God through good behavior. Which one do you tend toward, and why?

6. Pride can look like controlling, boasting, belittling, taking credit, selfishness, vanity, etc. Where in your life do you see pride showing up? What would it look like to humble yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus in this area?

Prayer (5 minutes)

Close your time in prayer. You can use your own words or these words:

> *Father, thank You for running toward us before we even get the words out. Search our hearts today. Show us where we're running from You, or trying to control You. Show us where we are prideful, and help us to surrender our pride to You. Amen.*

For Further Exploration

- Explore the Bible, engage in prayer and serve experiences, share stories, and practice rhythms essential to a healthy spiritual life in Rooted.
    - Rooted starts the week of September 21 at all locations
    - Register at [rooted.sv.cc.](rooted.sv.cc)