



## THEME

Regret + Redemption

## ANCHORED TO TRUTH

Psalm 51, 2 Samuel 11:1-5, James 1:14-15, Hebrews 6:18-19, Romans 6:15-23, **Luke 15:11-32**, Luke 16:19-31, John 3:1-16

## CONVERSATION

1. If you could go back in time to 'younger you', is there one piece of advice you'd give to you?
  - a. Is there a mistake you'd help yourself avoid?
2. Our worst mistakes often lead to regret. What does regret do to us - how does it affect us?
  - a. Does it (regret) eventually go away? How do we get rid of it?
3. You know this story [**Luke 15:11-32**], but read it again looking for the moment **regret** hits:

11 To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons. 12 The younger son told his father, 'I want my share of your estate now before you die.' So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

13 "A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. 14 About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. 15 He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. 16 The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

17 "When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, 19 and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'"

20 "So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

22 "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.
4. What was the Lost Son's first mistake here?
  - a. When did regret first hit - what prompted his regret?
  - b. Talk about how **self-concern** initiated his mistake + later initiated his regret.
  - c. Is our regret often prompted by the effect our mistake has on us (rather than others affected)?
  - d. If self-concern hadn't been driving him - but instead concern for others - could that have helped him avoid the mistake to begin with?
  - e. What does this tell us about the importance of the posture of our hearts?
5. The mistake was made, the regret hit hard - what does Jesus want us to learn from his next move?
  - a. What does Jesus want us to see in his approach to his Dad?
  - b. What does God want us to see in his Dad's response?
6. Finish by talking about God's plan to combat our mistakes + regret with grace + redemption.

- a. How effective is grace + redemption at healing regret?

**PRAY TOGETHER**

Can you pray together about mistakes you're struggling to trust God with - but are wearing you out?