



**Home Group study: week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**TITLE: Parables – stories to live by: The Lost Son**

**PASSAGE: Luke 15:11-32**

**Icebreaker**

Has anyone ever left where they were (home/town/job) or had a family member or friend do so - to go to a faraway new venture - maybe without really thinking it through properly - and maybe then returning later after it hadn't really gone very well?

Or: Do you have a favourite book or film where it happens like this?

Chat about what it feels like to be the one leaving or to see the one leaving go. And what is it like when the return takes place?

**Bible**

Read Luke 15:11-32 – pray for the Spirit to show you what he would like you to see in it.

**Discussion**

What strikes people straight away?

What is it about? (It was to tax collectors, sinners, and the listening, Pharisees. David Pawson and others reckon it was aimed mainly at the Pharisees).

Why does Jesus tell it?

Who do the main characters correspond to? Or do they?

Apply it to our own time – who do / can they apply to now? Can people see a little bit of each of themselves in the characters?

What would it be like if the first person the lost son met when he came back was his older brother? Can people identify with either or both of them, particularly how they would have felt about each other?

Talk about what the father was like.

Talk about what God is like. Draw out any uncertainty or ambivalence etc in people.

Encourage each other by sharing scriptures about God's character and his deeds.

**Response**

Spend some time praising God and praying for each other, and for the church – Jubilee and Nationwide.