

WEST RIDGE GROUPS

Group Member Discussion Guide

Week of April 13, 2025

CHECK-IN (~20 minutes)

How was your week? What was the high part of your week? What was the low part of your week? What can we celebrate together?

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week, Pastor Nate Galloway continued our series, *A Kingdom Upside Down*. In his message, Pastor Nate shared from the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15, highlighting how Jesus reveals the heart of the Father to both rebellious sinners and self-righteous religious people. The younger son's journey into misery after demanding freedom from his father illustrates how rebellion leads us away from God's love, yet the father's compassionate welcome reveals grace greater than all sin. Meanwhile, the older son's anger and resentment show how trying to earn God's love through works also distances us from His heart. Ultimately, the story centers not on the sons, but on the extravagant love of the Father who runs toward both lost and self-righteous children with open arms.

GROUP DISCUSSION (~50 minutes)

1. Thinking back to the message this week, was there anything that challenged you personally? Share your thoughts with the group.

2. *Read Luke 15:17-20a; Romans 2:4*

Why do you think the younger son had to hit rock bottom before “coming to his senses”? Take some time to discuss how God's kindness often leads us to repentance, even when our choices have painful consequences.

3. *Read Luke 15:20b-24; Psalm 103:8-12*

What does the father's response teach us about God's character and grace?

4. Read *Luke 15:25-30; Matthew 20:1-16*

Why was the older son resentful, and how can we fall into that same mindset today?

5. Read *Ephesians 2:8-9*

Think about how trusting God's grace changes our motivation for obedience. How do these verses challenge the idea of earning God's love through good works?

WRAP-UP (~10 minutes)

It is important to be growing in our relationship with Jesus and one another - what is one next step you can take this week to grow? Share with the group and commit to holding one another accountable.

What does it look like to hold each other accountable? It can be as simple as a text or phone call during the week. Hebrews 10:25 encourages us to meet regularly and to encourage one another on a regular basis.

Example: "Hey ____, you indicated in group this week that you were struggling at work with being light in a dark place. You said that your next step was to start a conversation with someone at work this week around the topic of faith. How did that go?"

PERSONAL NOTES

This week, my next step is:

This week I am going to check in on (name):

This week, my Bible reading will be (e.g. Philippians chapters 1-4):