

# LOSING OUR RELIGION: THE ELDER SON

*Life Group Questions | Sunday, September 24, 2017*

What was your perception of church as a child?

**Read Luke 15:11-32.** After three weeks of being immersed in this story, what's been resonating with you?

Discuss the following characteristics of the elder brother. Do you find yourself getting tangled up in any of these mentalities?

1. SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS. Read Luke 15:29. In what settings have you felt the *"Look at all I've done for you!"* impulse of the elder brother?
2. SENSE OF SUPERIORITY. Read Luke 15:30. Do you think it's possible to forgive someone you feel superior to? Do you have a *"Thank God I'm not like them"* list? If so, who's on it?
3. ENTITLED. Read Luke 15:28. Why was the elder brother angry? Talk about the differences between a cause-and-effect environment, built on earning & deserving, and a relationship environment, built on grace & truth.
4. JUDGEMENTAL. Read Luke 6:41-42. As followers of Jesus, how are we called to respond when we witness sin in our community?

Read Luke 15:31-32. What do you imagine was in the heart of the father as he spoke with his eldest son? How is this story shaping your view of God's heart & posture toward you?

Pray with one another. Close by reading Ephesians 2:8-9:

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*