

Today we gathered with full hearts carrying testimonies, tiredness, laughter, and gratitude. There was joy in celebrating life moments, tenderness in holding one another through upcoming surgeries and exams, and a shared awareness that it had been a long and testing week. Even across distance, there was a deep longing to be together – not just on screens, but in presence, in hugs, in shared space. And yet, right where we were, we leaned in together seeking God, honoring His faithfulness, and opening ourselves to what He wanted to speak.

Lost and Found Again: Restored by His Love

Sunday, May 3, 2026 Summary

Rooted in Luke 15:11-32, we entered the parable of the prodigal son as a living word—one that met us in our real lives. The conversation moved through the reality of being tested, the tenderness of repentance, and the depth of God's love that restores fully. We reflected on how the enemy brings guilt, shame, and doubt, trying to disconnect us from who God says we are, while God continually invites us to return and abide in Him. The father's response—running, embracing, restoring—revealed a love that does not interrogate our past but welcomes us home. In that space, we were reminded that God is not just calling us back—He is restoring us to identity, belonging, and authority.

Walking It Out

- ☐ Cover Radical family members who have exams and upcoming knee surgery
- ☐ Continue lifting one another, our families, neighbors, and the nations in prayer
- ☐ Remain attentive to God's voice following the fast, journaling and sharing insights as led
- ☐ Stay in ongoing conversation with God throughout the day

Key Themes & Teaching Highlights

1. The Father's Love Sees Us Before We Arrive (Luke 15:20)

From a distance, the father saw his son and ran toward him, filled with compassion. This wasn't a reaction... it was expectation - a posture of watching and waiting. The son came rehearsing repentance, but the father responded with embrace, restoring him before he could even finish speaking. This reveals a love that is not conditional on performance but rooted in relationship. God's love meets us on the way back, not just when we arrive.

2. Restoration Is Greater Than Forgiveness (Luke 15:22-24)

The father didn't just forgive, he restored. The robe, the ring, and the sandals signified identity, authority, and belonging. The son expected to be treated as a servant, but the father insisted on sonship. This reflects how God responds to true repentance, not by reducing us, but by restoring us fully. What was lost is not just recovered; it is reinstated with dignity and purpose. When we are in right relationship with the Father, His shalom peace covers and keeps us - reminding us of who He is and who we are.

3. Lost in Rebellion vs. Lost in Religion (Luke 15:29-31)

The younger son was lost through rebellion, but the older son was lost while staying close. Though physically present, the older son did not understand the heart of the father. His relationship was rooted in performance, doing rather than being. This exposes how easy it is to miss grace while trying to earn approval. The father's response reminds us that everything we need is already available to us in relationship with God, not something we have to earn or negotiate. We also see the very human tension between brothers, the way jealousy, comparison, and perceived favoritism can strain relationships, especially when one feels overlooked while another is celebrated. Rebellion and religion are two sides of the same coin; relationship is what makes all the difference.

4. Repentance Opens the Door to Transformation (Luke 15:17-19)

"When he came to himself" marked the turning point. Repentance was not just regret. It was clarity, humility, and movement toward the father. It showed a heart ready to return, even if only as a servant. Yet God meets repentance with transformation, not limitation. In returning, the son discovered that the father's love had never changed.

5. Access Has Always Been Available (Luke 15:12, 31)

The inheritance was divided between both sons, meaning access was never the issue. The older son had everything available but didn't realize it. This speaks to how we can live close to God yet unaware of what has already been given. The invitation is to recognize what is already ours in Him - to live from access, not striving.

Closing Charge

Stay close to the Father this week - not just in moments of need, but in the rhythm of your everyday life. When you feel pulled away, pause and return. When the noise gets loud, remember who you are and whose you are. You don't have to earn your place, you already belong. Let His love shape your responses, guide your decisions, and steady your heart. And when you stumble, don't stay away. Come home again.

Our Weekly Prayer

Father, we thank You for Your love that meets us wherever we are. Thank You for seeing us, for waiting for us, and for welcoming us home. Help us to stay close to You, to abide in You in every moment. Strengthen us where we are tired, guide us where we are uncertain, and cover us where we are vulnerable. We lift every need before You - exams, surgeries, and the unspoken burdens. Surround us with Your peace and Your presence, and remind us that we are Yours. In Jesus' name, Amen.