



MEN'S STUDY GUIDE · WEEK OF AUG 23, 2026

The Father Who Runs

Seventy Times Seven · Part 3 | Pastor Sam Ellery | Read: Luke 15:11–32

THE BIG IDEA

The Father doesn't wait for a polished speech or a perfect record. He runs. Real strength is coming home quickly, and welcoming others home without keeping score.

TALK IT OVER

Think of a time you tried to fix a mistake yourself before admitting it to anyone. How did that go?

- 1 The younger son rehearsed a speech so he could earn his way back as a hired hand. What "speeches" do men tend to rehearse with God: promises, extra effort, fixing it ourselves first? ▶ 0:02:15
- 2 Pastor Sam pointed out that an older man running in public was undignified in that culture. What does it say about God that the father gave up his dignity to reach his son? Where does pride keep you from moving toward someone? ▶ 0:06:40
- 3 The older brother pointed to "all these years" of hard work as proof he deserved more. Where do you measure your worth by performance: at work, at home, at church? ▶ 0:11:55
- 4 "Grace is always a gift." Why is that harder to accept for people who are used to earning what they have? ▶ 0:17:10
- 5 The father gave the robe, ring and sandals before his son had proven anything. Is there someone you are quietly making "earn it back": a son, a brother, a coworker? ▶ 0:26:20

NOTES

READ ALONG THIS WEEK

MON

Luke 15:1–7
The lost sheep

TUE

Luke 15:8–10
The lost coin

WED

Luke 15:11–24
The son comes home

THU

Luke 15:25–32
The older brother

FRI

1 John 1:5–10
Walking in the light

KEY VERSE

"...while he was still far off, his father saw him, and was moved with compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."

LUKE 15:20 · WEB

THIS WEEK'S CHALLENGE

Take one step toward someone you've been keeping at arm's length: a call, a text, a cup of coffee. Don't wait for the perfect speech. Then name one thing to God plainly and receive His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You for running toward me while I was still a long way off. Strip away my pride and my scorekeeping. Make me a man who comes home quickly and who throws the door open for others. In Jesus' name, amen.