





Small Group/ Reflection Notes

19-01-2025		The Older Son	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> If you had to sum up your week in one photo, what would it be/ consist of?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> How might/ does it feel to be the oldest sibling? The best part is... The worst part is... <input type="checkbox"/> How and why can 'familiarity breed contempt'? <input type="checkbox"/> Some aren't Christians because they've never met a Christian. Others aren't Christians because they <i>have</i> met a Christian and their life didn't seem that attractive.		
 Read	<u>Luke 15:11-32</u>	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.25</u> : Where was the Older Son? What was he doing? For how long? What does this suggest? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.26</u> : What was he surprised by? Why? Who did he ask? Who did he <i>not</i> ask? What does that suggest about his relationships? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.27-28</u> : What was the news? How did the Older Son react? Why? Where might that have been coming from? How does body language work? What might have been the Older Son's body language? Why does grace sometimes bring out the best in some and the worst in others? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.29-30</u> : How had the Older Son viewed himself? How had he been relating to his father? Why refer to his sibling as "this son of yours"? What was he denying? Might the Older Son have been more accepting if the Younger Son had returned to the self-righteous, works-driven, joyless life of the Older Son? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.31</u> : What had the Older Son always failed to realise? What is the "all" that was/ is/ will always be available to the Older Son? To us/ you? What difference could this make to us/ you? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.32</u> : Who's the "we"? To what extent do we celebrate 'others' finding acceptance/ healing/ forgiveness with Father God?		
Go further	<input type="checkbox"/> Why are churches sometimes sustained by Younger Sons? <input type="checkbox"/> We know how the Parable ends for the Younger Son. What different endings could you imagine for the Older Son?		
 Reflect	<input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention? <input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why? <input type="checkbox"/> When have you been 'the Older Son'?		
 Do	<input type="checkbox"/> Take time to reflect/ meditate on Rembrandt's painting of <u>The Return of the Prodigal Son</u> . What do you notice about the Older Son? What he's wearing? His position/ posture? His expression? What has gone on before this moment?		

	What is happening now? Picture yourself as the Older Son receiving God's embrace/ forgiveness/ unconditional love.
 Pray	
 My questions:	

*If you're not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can't see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.*