

# LUKE 15:12-32

There is a connection to Genesis about men with two sons: Cain and Abel, Ismael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob: dysfunctional families, favouritism, and treachery, even murder. The first century Jew would know the outcome: younger brother and angry older one, out for vengeance out of jealousy for being swindled.

Maybe we need to rethink the father. There is compassion for the lost son when he sees him afar off. But he allows his youngest son to separate himself from family and community. The Father has forgotten his other son. Who now is the lost son? The parable raises the challenge of who have we forgotten to invite? How do we reconcile ourselves to people whom we have ignored or alienated or discounted?

We are of the found: we were lost, but we have been found, restored to the family. There are others that are still lost, uninvited and not present at the feast. He meets them where they are. Our purpose is the same: to reconcile, celebrate and accept the lost and reunite them to the family of God. The dysfunctional family shows us how we can get it wrong; we must make every effort to seek the lost without forgetting who to invite to the party: when they are found, both are equally important.



## 01 — Parables we think we know

We often read this parable and probably think we know it. What about Andy's preach on this parable surprised you, or gave you a new understanding of the lost son?



## 02 — The father

It's easy to think of the father in this parable as perfect, but no one is perfect except God the father. How have we made mistakes in our lives before, and how difficult is it to accept that in hindsight, we got it wrong?



## 03 — The found and the lost

The church is often seen as hypocritical, because we talk a good talk, but don't walk a good walk. What is one way that we can change our walks on our front lines to be more aligned to the kingdom of God?



## 04 — Practising what (Andy) preaches

Who could be invited to the party right now? Who do you think God wants you to invite to church next week?

