



WEEK 2

**A Surprise Party
Sept 23_14, 2017
Pastor Jared Herd**

STUDY GUIDE

1. Have you ever had a surprise party thrown for you? What was it like?

Why do we throw surprise parties for people?

2. Pastor Jared said, "We all crave grace. It's the first thing we want when we find ourselves in trouble, but it's often the hardest thing to extend." Why do you think we crave something we know we don't deserve?

What makes it hard to give?

3. Luke 15:17-24. What did the son believe was the solution to his problem (verse 19)? How was he mistaken? What did he think his father was like?

4. How far did the son get with what he planned to say? What does that tell us about this father?

5. What else do we learn about this father in his response to his son's homecoming? Look at each of the five action words in verse 20 that describe what this father does.

6. Consider this quote from Pastor Jared's message: "Reconciliation happens before rehabilitation." What did he mean?

Why do you think the reverse is often what we expect of each other?

7. What did Pastor Jared say can happen to our understanding of rules and relationships when we forget this is how God operates?

8. How does God care about the rehabilitation piece? What do these verses tell us: Gal 2:20, Romans 6:1-4 and 1 Peter 1:3-8?

MEMORIZE Romans 5:10 (NIV): "For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"

MEDITATE: Pastor Jared shared that the same people from this son's village who would have come to his shaming ceremony would now be coming to the celebratory feast that the father threw instead. What would've been your response if you had been a neighbor to this father? This week, think about how quick or slow you typically are to extend grace. Pay special attention to how you interact with people outside your family and close relationships, especially strangers.