

# TALK IT OVER

The Door Is Still Open

## BOTTOM LINE

Never underestimate the difference a door can make.

## CONVERSATION STARTER

What is the first thing you want to do or eat when you return home after being away for a long time?

## THINGS TO CONSIDER

*What did you hear?*

*What do you think?*

*What will you do?*

## RESOURCES

- The Daily: [newpointe.org/thedaily](http://newpointe.org/thedaily)
- [The Prodigal Son](#) (5 min.)

## VERSES AND QUOTES

*Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." Luke 15:1-2 ESV*

*But when he came to himself, he said, "How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his servants ... "let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." And they began to celebrate. Now his older son was in the field ... And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound." But he was angry and refused to go in. Luke 15:17-28 ESV*

"Distance begins in the heart before it appears in your life ... The father runs. He embraces the son before the son can prove anything."

"Religion can talk you out of the very thing the Father is trying to invite you into."  
– Quotes by Adam Drinkard

## TALK IT OVER

Jesus told this story in response to a complaint. What were the two kinds of people in the crowd? If you didn't know this story, honestly think about what group you would be in. How does judgment surface in your own life? Jesus told the story for us. The first son wanted what came from the father but didn't want life *with* the father. When or in what area of your life have you identified with that desire? Distance begins in the heart before it appears in your life. Broken relationships with God and people begin slowly. What are warning signs? The path to the pigpen is following your own unchecked desires. Discuss. What does "coming to yourself" look like? How did the Father run to you? The older brother missed it all. Consider this question for yourself: How do you spend your whole life around the Father and still not know what brings Him joy? Neither son realized that true life is found only in the Father's presence. What character in the story is speaking to you most personally today?

## ACTION STEP

I will value and seek my Father's presence intimately and continually. \_\_\_\_\_