



The Brother's Battle

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Focus God's grace is available to everyone, but His gift of salvation is never to be taken for granted. It is important to rejoice in the homecoming of a prodigal because God sees that person as valuable and precious. We are not to trust in our own righteousness or works, but on Christ's work on the cross. Spiritual maturity is realizing that we are *all* sinners saved by grace.

Fun Have each group member take the first initial of their name, then find adjectives starting with that letter to describe themselves (for example Joyful Jammin' Julie). Get creative!

Review Key Scriptures: Luke 15:1–3, 25–29

1. It affects how we see ourselves.

Luke 18:9–14

Our battle is often the mistake of trusting in our works or self-righteousness. New believers usually do not have this problem because they come to Jesus with the understanding of grace. Oftentimes, it is the mature believer who is prideful because he or she thinks they have *arrived*. However, God's Word says that *all* have sinned.

2. It affects how we see others.

Luke 7:36–47

If you look up to yourself, you will look down on others! Sin is sin. This parable teaches that there are some people who think they are better than others. It also teaches that there are some who think they owe less to God for His gift of salvation.

3. It affects how we see the Father.

Luke 15

The Pharisees did not understand this about God—that He sees something lost as precious. The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son were all deemed precious. When we do not see them as God sees them, we often wallow in jealousy, anger, bitterness, or fear because we feel slighted in some way.

Group Dynamics Idea Praying for each other is important, so try different ways of passing along prayer requests each week. For example, have each person write their name on a small piece of paper, fold it, and place it in a bowl or basket. Pass the container around to your group members and have them each select a name and pray for that person that week.

Discuss

1. Identify the common link between low self-esteem and high self-esteem.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 15:9, Ephesians 3:8, and 1 Timothy 1:15. How did the Apostle Paul describe himself?
3. Where should our focus be as Christians, according to 1 Corinthians 2:2? What does it mean to be crucified with Christ?
4. Pastor Robert said that the only way to win the battle is to stay close to the cross. What is the meaning of this statement? What are some simple ways we can apply this to our daily walk?
5. The brother's battle is all about keeping our attitude and heart right. Share what you have found to be the best ways to accomplish this.
6. Take a moment to seek the Lord and ask Him if you need an attitude adjustment toward anyone. If so, confess it and leave it at the cross!

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Everyone is precious in the eyes of God; He loves us all.
- He calls the sinner to His saving grace and welcomes back those who stray.
- Our attitude may distance us from God; our hearts may deceive us.
- God's Word helps us understand what it means to *die to self*.

- An attitude adjustment can work wonders in our spiritual life!

Prayer

Lord, thank You for saving me! By Your grace I have been redeemed. Forgive me for the times I have thought myself better than someone else. Help me to see others through Your eyes. Please show me who I might be feeling jealousy, anger, bitterness, or fear toward so I can adjust my attitude. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Fellowship is a wonderful thing! Plan to meet for a particular church event, select a fun activity to enjoy together, meet for dinner at a nearby restaurant, or gather at someone's home for a potluck. This takes relationships to a different and deeper level—this reminds us that we are all part of a family with Christ as the head.