

Questions to consider when reading Chapters 2 & 3

1. What was new to you or had an effect on you? Did you read anything that raised questions in your mind?
2. "There is no evil that the father's love cannot pardon and cover, there is no sin that is a match for his grace." (p.24)

How can this be seen in the parable, in other Bible stories, or in your own experience?

3. The younger brother believes he is no longer worthy to be called his father's son. What does that tell us about his view of what it takes to be loved and accepted? Is this view prevalent today?
4. If God's grace is absolutely free and we cannot earn it or merit it in any way, what motivation is there to live an obedient life?
5. "You can rebel against God and be alienated from him either by breaking his rules or by keeping all of them diligently." (pp.36-37)
6. How do people seek to control God through their obedience?
7. How are the younger and elder brothers different? How are they alike?
8. Where does the elder brother find his significance and happiness? Where do we tend to look for our significance and happiness? Be specific
9. Do you agree or disagree that being an elder brother is a more spiritually desperate condition than being a younger brother? Why? (see pages 46-47)
10. If you asked the average person on the street to define the word "sin" what would they say? How does Jesus challenge this definition in the parable? (see page 43)