

Small group questions for 6/5/22 sermon by John Moser

*"Dad's House...Dad's Rules"* Luke 15:1-3, 11-24, 25-32 and Deuteronomy 12:18-21

1. What's a humorous (at least now, years later 😊) true story from YOUR past regarding abiding by the 'house rules' of your parents when you were growing up? (think-curfew, chores, expectations)
2. What are some feelings and/or questions that come to you as you hear Jesus' parable of the prodigal son and loving father? (everyone be sure to listen to each other, without answering, explaining, discounting anything that is said)
3. When you compare Moses' Deuteronomy 12:18-21 severe discipline with Jesus' Luke 15:11-24 description of Abba/Father/God's sacrificial grace, what do you make of the breathtaking difference? Is Jesus 'watering down' God's judgment... or replacing judgment with love ... or is Jesus (depicted by the running Father) taking upon himself the judgment in our place so that transformation can occur? Does your answer inform how we should interpret many Old Testament stories that shock us with their severity?
4. What might the robe, ring, and sandals signify to the son (and to the village!) that the father has immediately given? What has Jesus given us when we come to him in faith and surrender?
5. Where do you find yourself in this story?
6. There are thousands of 'prodigals' in the Fletcher Hills surrounding community. Some have obvious signs of rebellion, mistakes, but others look pretty respectable. What will FHPC community "House Rules" be? Will you be a Deuteronomy 21 church...or a Luke 15 community? How will you do that with FHPC ministries, budget, campus, focus?
7. What is the main takeaway from Jesus' story that you want to begin practicing?