

¡Únete a la Fiesta! (Join the Party!) Group Study

This Is Our Story: **Week 6**

Passage: Luke 15:25-32

Pastor Esteban Tapia

Sermon Outline:

1. There's a **Party** going on!
2. God Himself is **throwing** the **Party**!
3. Don't **miss** the **Party**!
4. Jesus is the **Life** of the **Party**!
5. Everyone is **Welcomed** to the **Party**!

Discussion Questions from "This Is Our Story" Booklet

Discussion helps are indented, italic, & blue.

ICEBREAKER from the SERMON (not in the book): *What is the best party that you have ever been to? What do you tend to think when you hear a party going on in your neighborhood?*

Have you ever been hesitant to forgive someone? What are the reasons that make you want to be careful about being too quick to forgive?

† **Discover the Way of Jesus**

Read Luke 15:25-32. Before we judge the older brother, take some time to understand him. How would this situation make you feel? Would you be frustrated if this were your brother?

Talk honestly here. I think that Jesus knew that we would all relate to the older brother's complaint at some level.

I have a feeling that there is a little "older brother syndrome" in each of us. We don't love seeing other people get away with things. What is that about us as humans? Why do we want people to pay for their wrongs?

There seems to be something in us that finds comfort in a world that is fair... in a world in which hard work is paid for. That just makes sense. But the world isn't always like that.

Notice the older brother's complaint, in verse 29. Who is he most mad at, his brother or his father? What does this suggest about the reason that we find it hard to celebrate forgiveness?

Could it be true that we are hesitant to celebrate forgiveness because deep down we think that it is not fair?

Notice the first sentence of the father's response in verse 31. What was the mistake in the older brother's thinking that the father was trying to point out?

The older brother seems to have forgotten that the Father is with him too. Pastor Esteban highlighted how special it was for the Father to leave the party to pursue his older son. God pursues religious people too! How is He pursuing you?

♥ **Nurture the Heart of Jesus**

Compare this parable with the one Jesus tells in Matthew 20:1-16. What does this parable suggest about the problem that we have with seeing God's grace given to people who don't deserve it?

This is the parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard... some of them get paid for a full day's work and some get paid for a short time, but they all get paid the same. Feel free to summarize this parable if time is running short.

What do we need to recognize about ourselves before we can truly celebrate the repentance of others?

Pastor Esteban said, "It's possible to be like the older brother... it is possible to be a religious person, and yet be far from God."

○ **Act for the sake of Others**

Go back and look at the first two parables in Luke 15. They both end with someone searching after what was lost. Who should have searched after what was lost in this story?

Is there a lost person that you need to search after today? Maybe invite your group to pray for you as you do.

¡Únete a la Fiesta! (Join the Party!)

Leaders remember that we are throwing a little party on March 5 to celebrate this 6 week series! It may not be as nice as the party that the father threw for his son, but it will be a great time to thank God for all he has done. I'd love for you to come ready to share some encouragement with all the leaders.