



ICEBREAKER - Reflect upon your personal freedoms, which are the most important or cherished?

[Listen to Kurt's description of a potluck from minute 3:33 to minute 6:10 using this link.](#) Are you a front of the line or back of the line person at a potluck? A potluck is Kurt's visual of the first two verses in Luke 15.

Luke 15:1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. Why?

- What do you think they were talking about? Does what you think Jesus would say, fit with the picture of tax collectors and sinners hanging around Jesus to hear what he would say?
- How did Jesus speak and act that caused Tax Collectors and sinners to gather round?
- How do you respond to Kurt's statement, "When we deliver Jesus' message in his way we should expect sinners and tax collectors to gather round."

Luke 15:2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

- Why do you think they were muttering? Do Pharisees and teachers of the law think Jesus condones their behavior?
- Do you think of sinners in Jesus day as different or less worse than sinners today? Why?
- Should we be interested in attracting sinners?
- Do you think we would be offended if Jesus hung out with and ate a meal with modern day versions of tax collectors and sinners?

Have someone read the story of the Prodigal Son, Luke 15:11-31.

Freedom

Kurt said, "The father gave an astounding amount of freedom to each of his sons."

- Both sons "ran away" from the father's house seeking joy. Neither of them found the joy.
- **What did the younger and older sons each think would bring them joy?**
- Kurt suggested the father longs for his children to learn how to live in the father's house, enjoying what they already have, enjoying being a son or daughter, the joy that you are seeking can be found in what you already own, what you already are. Children are free to seek joy in something else, they are free to seek where they will not find. **How do you respond to this idea?**
- The father's love gave freedom to his kids, freedom to make mistakes. **What did it cost the father to give this kind of freedom? What does it cost modern parents to give freedom to children?**
- **Are you willing to give the people you love the kind of freedom it takes for them to make big costly mistakes? What gets in your way?**
- **Do you ever wish God would give less freedom; that he would make his wishes more clear? What might be a negative consequence if he did?**

