



# STAND-ALONE

## MESSAGE

### Love To Run: November 26, 2023

For many people, the Thanksgiving holiday is an annual reminder to not take things for granted. As family and friends gather around tables, most offer family, health, and a roof overhead as points of often overlooked blessings. But what if the thing we should most be thankful for is the very thing we most frequently take for granted: The Love of God. Luke 15 offers a series of parables that give us examples of what “God’s love” looks like in real life. It is in his final story that Jesus offers us an unforgettable reminder that, regardless of where we find ourselves, we are never too far away to return to our loving Heavenly Father.

### Discussion Questions:

1. When do you start celebrating Christmas? Before Thanksgiving? After Thanksgiving? Why do you think you are right in doing this? Why do you feel the other group is wrong? 1-2-3-Fight!!
2. What do you think about when you think about the love of God? What words, images, or stories come to mind? How would you explain God’s love to a child in kindergarten? An adult atheist? Someone who is curious about faith, but thinks that God is mostly concerned about rule-keeping?
3. Read **Luke 15:11-24**. What aspect or element of the story jumps out at you? What do we learn about God? What do we learn about people? Is there something you need to do in response to this story? Is there someone in your life who needs to hear this parable?
4. What was your response to learning about the Kezazah (Cut Off) Ceremony? How do you think the anticipation of the community’s response influenced the Prodigal Son’s decision to come home? Do you think we have a modern day version of this ceremony? In what ways did the father attempt to offset the impact of the Kezazah Ceremony on his son’s life? How is that image a reflection of God’s love for people? Lost people? You?