

FAMILY VALUES

Week 1 - Accepted not Rejected

- Icebreaker - What is your best family tradition?

Read 1 John 3:1 & Romans 8:14-15

- Do you consider yourself to be a member of God's family? Why/Why not?

Read the story of the Lost Son found in Luke 15:11-32

- As you read the story which son do you find yourself identifying with the most?
- What sort of welcome was the younger son expecting? What sort of welcome did he receive? What, do you imagine was the impact of this in his life?
- Do you think that the attitude of the older brother is unjust? Have you ever found yourself struggling to come to terms with God's radical acceptance of others?
- The older son thought he was doing his fathers work out in the field, but the fathers attention was on the lost son, what can we learn from this?

Read Romans 15:7

- What does it mean to accept one another? Practically speaking what does this look like?
- Paul wrote these words to combat the division and prejudice that existed between the Jewish and the Gentile followers of Jesus, which was a big issue at the time. What sort of division do you see in the church today? What can we do about it?
- Paul tells them to "accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you" for what purpose does he remind them of their own salvation? (See also Romans 5:6-8)
- In what way does our acceptance of one another "bring praise to God?"