Lesson 8: Jesus and… celebration
Luke 15:11-24, 32, 10

11 *Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.* ***12*** *The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.* ***13*** *"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.* ***14*** *After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.* ***15*** *So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.* ***16*** *He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.* ***17*** *"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!* ***18*** *I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.* ***19*** *I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.'* ***20*** *So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.* ***21*** *"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'* ***22*** *"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.* ***23*** *Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate.* ***24*** *For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate …* ***32*** *But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"*

10 *In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."*

1. Can anyone summarize this story (The parable of the prodigal son)? Why is the father celebrating? *We will be focusing on the second half of the story, starting in verse 20 and ending with verse 32*

2. What do you notice about the way Jesus describes the celebration in this story?
    a. Father RUNNING (definitely looked down upon in Jewish custom), best robe, ring on his finger, sandals on his feet, killing the fattened calf, feasting and celebrating, music, dancing.

3. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Look down at verse 10. *"In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."* Looking at the earthly description of celebrating the prodigal son's return, what do you think the heavenly meaning is?

4. Here we see that the father celebrates lavishly, and honestly kind of recklessly, to welcome his son home, and then we see that there is rejoicing in heaven when even ONE person repents and follows Jesus. What do you think God wants us to celebrate? How do you think he wants us to celebrate? What does it say about God that he cares about celebration?