

# ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

## CHARACTER TRAIT:

**LOVE**

## DEFINITION:

Love is patient, kind, and lasts forever

## MEMORY VERSE:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." **1 Corinthians 13:4-8a NIV**

## FINISH LINE:

God loves you no matter what

## READ: LUKE 15:11-32

### WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

1. What are some of the "wrong" things the younger brother did? *(He disrespected his father by asking for his inheritance, left home, and wasted his money. He was selfish, prideful, and foolish.)*
2. Look at verse 20. How did the father act differently than what the younger son hoped for? *(The son thought he would have to work to earn his father's love again. However, the father welcomed him back and the son did not have to do anything to earn it. The father loved him no matter what.)*
3. Look at verse 28. How did the older brother respond to his younger brother coming home? *(He was so angry that his father forgave him and welcomed him back that he pouted.)*

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

1. Look at verses 17-19. What did the younger brother believe was true about his father? *(He knew his father treated his servants well and thought he might let him work enough to earn a place at home again as a servant.)*
2. How would you describe the older brother? *(He was prideful, selfish, ungrateful, and disrespectful to his father and brother.)*
3. Did the father show him love? How? *(The father came out to him and wanted him to be a part of the celebration. He reminded his son that all he owned would be his someday.)*
4. Did the father love one brother more than the other? *(No.)* Why do you say that?

### WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

1. Which son do you relate to more? Why?
2. Do you ever feel like you have done something so bad that God will stop loving you?
3. Do you ever think that if you do enough good stuff that God should love you more than someone else?
4. Who do you think God is in this story? *(The Father)* What does this story teach you about God's love? *(No matter how many bad or good things we have done, we all still need God's love. He loves us all the same. We cannot make Him love us more or less. He wants us to see how much we need His love, come to Him, and be a part of His party!)*