

# at Eastview Easter

Sermon Study - 4.5.2026

## Leader's Corner

Easter Sunday

Luke 15:11-32

Easter reveals a God who doesn't wait to shame us—but runs to restore us. In the story of the prodigal son, Jesus shows a Father who interrupts shame with love, replaces rejection with restoration, and invites both the rebellious and the religious to come home. Because of the resurrection, shame doesn't get the final word—grace does.

### **Main Passage:**

Luke 15:11-32

### **Main Idea:**

God interrupts our shame with His pursuing love and restores us as sons and daughters.

### **Main Practice:**

Stop bracing for shame—start running toward the Father.

## Prayer and Praise

### **Opening Prayer (Liturgical):**

“Father, we come to You today not hiding, but honest. Not earning, but receiving. Thank You for running toward us in Jesus, for interrupting our shame with Your love, and for calling us home again. Open our hearts to receive grace, life, hope, and healing today. Amen.”

### **Suggested Worship Songs:**

- Living Hope
- Graves Into Gardens

## Group Discussion

1. What stood out to you most from the message?
2. What part of the prodigal son story felt new or impactful?
3. Why is the father the central figure in this story—not the sons?
4. What does it mean that “shame gets interrupted by the Father’s love?”
5. Which son do you relate to more right now—the younger (running) or the older (rule-keeping)?
6. Where in your life are you tempted to believe God is disappointed, distant, or cutting you off?
7. How does shame shape the way people relate to God?
8. Why do you think we tend to rehearse “shame speeches” instead of receiving grace?
9. What false picture of God do you need to replace today?
10. Where have you been believing you are “too far gone” or “good enough without grace?”
11. What is one area where you need to let the Father redefine your identity?
12. What is one step you can take to move toward the Father this week?
13. Who is someone you can extend this same grace to?

## Practice

### Group Practice:

- Take a moment of silence. Invite each person to quietly identify where they’ve been bracing for shame.
- Then pray this over each other: “The Father runs toward you. You are loved, restored, and not defined by your past.”

### Individual Practice (This Week):

- Start each day with this declaration:

**“I am not bracing for shame—I am living in grace.”**

- Read Luke 15:11–32 slowly 2–3 times this week and place yourself in the story.

## Further Study

### Scripture:

- John 3:16–17 (God’s saving heart)
- Romans 8:1 (No condemnation)
- Psalm 103:8–12 (Compassion of the Father)
- Ephesians 2:1–5 (From death to life)

### Reflection Prompt:

- What comes into your mind when you think about God—and how is that shaping your life right now?

### Closing Thought:

Easter is not just the story of an empty tomb—

It’s the story of a running Father.

Love that pursues you.

Life that restores you.

Hope that rewrites your story.

Healing that makes you whole.

### So this week:

Stop bracing for the pot... and start running toward the Father.