



The older brother

AT A GLANCE


Bible

Luke 15:25–32


Topic

Envy and self-righteousness


Takeaway

Being able to share in others' joy



8 minutes



Object: a balloon



Preparation: 5 min



indoors or outdoors



Make it personal: In two sentences, share something you have experienced yourself on the topic "Envy and self-righteousness". Real stories stick best.



How the devotion works

1 min

Opening

Show the balloon. Ask: Have you ever been annoyed that someone else was celebrated?

2 min

Bible text

Read Luke 15:25–32. The older son comes in from the field, hears music and learns: there is a party for his little brother. He stays outside, angry. The father comes out to him too.

3 min

Thought

We like to read the story from the younger son's point of view. But perhaps we are more often the older one: dutiful, correct – and bitter inside when others receive grace. The father loves both sons. The good one is invited to the party too.

2 min

Conversation

Which role do you recognise yourself in right now?



The older brother



Prayer to read aloud

God, free me from envy and from keeping score. Let me celebrate with you when you are gracious to others. Amen.



To think further

- Why does the story have an open ending – does the older brother go in?



For leaders

- Never put young people on the spot: ask open questions, nobody has to answer.
- Let one of the young people read the Bible text aloud.
- Encourage them to say the prayer themselves – the written prayer gives confidence.



Section: Well-known Bible stories. You will find matching group meetings and more devotions at scouts-cloud.com.