



A father who runs

AT A GLANCE



Bible

Luke 15:11–32



Topic

Jesus' image of God



Takeaway

Grace that breaks all calculation



10–15 minutes



Object: a pair of running shoes



Preparation: 10 min



indoors or by the fire



Make it personal: In two sentences, share something you have experienced yourself on the topic "Jesus' image of God". Real stories stick best.



How the devotion works

2 min

Opening

Put the running shoes in the middle. Ask: How do you imagine God – more like a judge, a boss, a friend, a father, a mother?

3 min

Bible text

Read Luke 15:11–32. Watch the father: he divides the inheritance, waits, sees his son from far away, runs, interrupts his confession and also goes out to the older son.

5 min

Thought

In the ancient Near East a dignified man did not run – he would have made a fool of himself. This father does it anyway. Jesus tells the parable to people who are upset about his closeness to "sinners" (Luke 15:1–2). It contradicts every image of God that hands out love only after performance.

5 min

Conversation

Which image of God has shaped you – and does it fit this father?



A father who runs



Prayer to read aloud

God, you run towards us before we have finished our sentences. Heal my false images of you and make our group a place where people can come home. Amen.



To think further

- Where do we as a church or group find it hard to live out this grace?
- What does it take to come home after a break?



For leaders

- Leave room for doubts and critical questions – an honest conversation matters more than a quick answer.
- As a leader, feel free to share a personal experience.
- With heavy topics, keep an eye on who is struggling and be available afterwards.



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