

# REDROCKS

[red•räks]

noun

1 Defining who we are.

2 Authenticity, Humility,  
Unity, and Generosity.

## WEEK 3 • GROUP GUIDE • MESSAGE BY ERIC PARKS

### START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer this question:

**What was the most embarrassing or humiliating thing that has ever happened to you?**

### SHARE

Welcome to our ongoing teaching Series called “Red Rocks.”

What is Red Rocks Church? What does God say a church should be doing? Do we look like the type of church Jesus spoke about? If you are new to following God, how do you know the church you are a part of is a healthy church? During this series, we are going to explore what God says about our purpose and this beautifully-messy community of people that make up the church.

Jesus spoke a bold truth to his disciples that only later would they come to truly understand. In Matthew Jesus said, “...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Jesus is the one who is building the church, he is at the head and we all play a part in the functioning body of Christ. The church is not a building, but a body of believers designed to move gracefully together, reaching out to those far from God while at the same time encouraging and building up one another in the process. This church Jesus spoke of is an unstoppable force that moves outward in a powerful way, so much so that not even “the gates of Hades” can overcome it. The church is the hope of the world, a shining city on the hill and we are not to be afraid or ashamed of the truth.

Let’s recap: in the first week Shawn talked about the church and how we are supposed to be a place for prodigals to come home. In the second week, Chad spoke about the difficulties of being the older brother in the story and how our hearts can drift from God. This week we are focusing on a different point of view ... that of the father in the story.

**Let’s Read Luke 15:11-13**



In Jewish society, there were specific traditions and laws (according to Deuteronomy 21:17) on how inheritances were divided after the death of the Father. The eldest son would receive a double-portion of the younger brother's inheritance. In this case, if there were two brothers, it would be assumed that the older brother received two-thirds of the estate and the younger brother received one-third. Now, the remarkable part of the story of the prodigal son is that the younger brother asked his father for his inheritance while he was still alive. Can you imagine? It would be like a son saying, "Dad, I can't even wait for you to die, give me my inheritance right now." The actions of the younger son were a bold declaration to the rest of the world that his father was dead to him and he was willing to permanently sever the relationship.

**The father in the story gave the son what he asked for and allowed him to take the inheritance before he died. What does this say about the state of mind of the younger son?**

## **GROW**

Let's face it...today we live in a very narcissistic culture. Look around and you'll find that it is a "selfie" culture. For those of you without smart phones, a "selfie" is typically a picture taken of oneself by oneself in a flattering light and posted to social media such as Instagram or Facebook. We celebrate the individual in our culture and it seems like we are quite opposed to humility. This is not a new phenomenon. We can't blame the millennial generation; it is just that they have more technology options these days. The battle with pride has been raging since the Garden of Eden.

C.S. Lewis in Mere Christianity sums up what humility is by saying:

**"True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less."**

**Let's read Luke 15:14-20**

If anyone deserved to be indignant with the son, it was the father. Whose pocketbook did the son hurt? Whose reputation was ruined in town? Who had the chance to validate his status in the community to publicly rebuke the returning son? The father had every right; yet did not use his power to do that which he was entitled. Instead he used his power to welcome home, forgive, and restore this son to the family. There was a certain power in the humility of the father's heart.

**Do you think we live in a narcissistic culture today?**

**How do you typically react to a prideful person? (aggression, retreat, ignore, belittle, pray)**

**Why is humility so hard to cultivate or demonstrate?**

**Why is humility so powerful?**



## MOVE

At Red Rocks Church, we want to be marked by humility, to be a place that throws parties for the prodigal, instead of stones. In a healthy church body, there is a continual and fluid movement of serving each other, building one another up, trying to outdo each other in honor. It is a true reflection of the heart of God. We want to become more and more like Jesus Christ. To do this, we need to be willing individually to humble ourselves to reach out and to serve someone, especially when we feel that they don't deserve it. This is a power we do not have on our own, but a strength that the Holy Spirit gives us.

Let's read Philippians 2:1-11

What does it look like to have "the same mindset as Christ Jesus" when it comes to our relationships? Church? Our work?

What stands out to you in this passage about humility?

What is one way you can humble yourself this week and serve just one person?

## PRAY

As a group, spend some time praying for each other and the struggles that we all face. If you are in a co-ed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to talk more freely.

## TO GO

Jesus said that if we are to follow him, there is something that He has planned for us to do. Let's remember this verse, because it is easy for all of us to forget sometimes:

**Proverbs 11:25**

**A generous man will prosper, he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.**

*Additional Resources: Great book on Humility is Tim Keller's "The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness"*

