



## EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 2: Celebrate?

Suggested Week of Use: March 14, 2021

Core Passage: Luke 15:20-32

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### **News Story Summary**

Corey Brooks is a pastor in one of Chicago's most dangerous areas. Calling himself the "new sheriff in town" he informed twins Varney and Varmah Voker they would have to go elsewhere after returning from prison if they wanted to restart their drug empire. He showed them the harm they had done to their own neighborhood and told them he understood sin and grace and believed in them. He knew they could not move forward without redemption, so he pointed them to Jesus.

For more about this story, search "Chicago pastor turns gangsters".

### **Focus Attention**

To replace the Begin idea under Focus Attention, share the story of Corey Brooks reaching out to the Voker brothers and sharing sin and grace with them. Note that the twins are only two who have found Christ and turned their lives around because of the influence of Pastor Brooks. Invite the group to consider why this pastor might be successful. Lead the group to propose ways the Voker twins were prodigals. Complete the step using the Transition idea.

### **Summarize and Challenge**

To supplement the Review idea under Summarize and Challenge, after calling attention to the three statements under Apply the Text, remind the group of Corey Brooks and the Voker twins. Guide the group to identify ways the summary statements could be seen in the news story. Lead the group to discuss the role compassion and grace played in the story. Discuss how that change can be applied to your neighborhood. Complete the step using the Challenge idea and the prodigal bookmark.