

# What does it mean to follow Jesus anyway?

When Jesus described new faith, he told the story of two very different sons. We also tend to resemble these two paths. How would you describe yours?



## YOUNGER SON

In Luke 15:11-31, Jesus tells us about two different “lost” sons. The younger son wants to live life on his own, away from the Father. He squanders his inheritance on partying and “wild living.” He then “comes to himself” and decides to return to the Father. To our amazement, the father sprints out to hug his wayward son, and welcomes him fully back to the family with a lavish party as an honored son.

The younger son is “lost” by living on his own, away from the Father. The older son is just as “lost.” He has lived near the father for many years, but does not really know the father. The older son represents those of us who grew up religious. We also need to “come into the house” of God’s love, replacing religious practices with God Himself.

The coronavirus has taken our world by surprise. We all are experiencing “lostness” through this pandemic. Like the younger son, let’s use this “wake up call” to come home to the Father. Adult faith means that we declare that Jesus is the center of our lives and our decisions. Instead of trusting ourselves to pick a career, to pick a spouse, to pick the values we should live



## OLDER SON

Meanwhile, out in the field, the older son is hard at work for the Father, trying to earn his approval. He protests, “I have been working my tail off for you all my life. Why didn’t you notice and reward me?!” The Father affirms, “Everything I have is yours. But when someone lost comes home, we have to throw a party. Please join us!” We never find out if the older son softens his heart and joins the celebration.



by, Jesus is actually an expert at running our lives. We should trust him with our futures, our careers, and our sexuality.

## Now what? How do I live out my new faith?

We think that new faith is a little like wet cement. Just as wet cement becomes solidified overtime, our faith becomes stronger the more we talk about it, lasting for our whole lives and eternity. Let’s take some biblical steps to strengthen your

faith! Many decisions we make change our lives: what school to attend, who to date, where to live. How do you anticipate following Jesus will shape your life?

Here are two things to try as you take first steps in your relationship with Jesus. Grow in Prayer and Bible. Use our [Grow Guide](#). Get a mentor and tell your story. Use our 3-week [mentoring guide](#). (Ask a Christian to mentor you)