



THE HEART OF GOD'S TO OURS

## Part 3: That's Toxic

### Introduction

If you are aware of a problem, you can address it. But if you are unaware of a problem, then not only does it continue to exist, but in some instances, the problem gets worse. And by the time you become aware of it, it's either because someone tells you or the problem makes itself known to you, and that usually never works out for anybody!

### Discussion Questions

1. Are there any problems you were unaware of? How did you realize it? What did you do to address the problem?
2. Read Luke 15:1–2. What were the Pharisees and the teachers of the law unaware of about God?
3. Read Luke 15:25–32. In contrast to the younger brother's problem of "wrongdoing," the older brother has a problem of moral righteousness or "right doing." Which brother do you most closely resonate with?
4. What message about God would you want to communicate to the "younger brothers" in this world? What message about God would you want to communicate to the "older brothers" in this world?
5. Although this story is commonly referred to as the parable of the prodigal son, the main character in this story is actually the Father. What is the most surprising thing about the Father's response to each of his sons?
6. How can you reflect the Father's heart toward those around you this week?

### Moving Forward

Let's not be the church that just continues to be unaware of our "older brother" mentality that robs us of our ability to shine God's love in this world. Let's be a community that roots out the *older brother* deep in our hearts and compellingly forgives, loves, and celebrates in the name of Jesus as we reflect the very heart of God.