



Make a Difference

The Sandals are a Symbol of Making a Difference

The sandals on the son's feet are a sign of his new rank or position. He is not a slave. He is a free man.

The sandals are also a sign that the son is on a new path.

The servant represents Jesus!

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45 (ESV)



Overcomer: The Mission of Lake Effect Church

In the Parable of the Prodigal Son we can see the mission of Lake Effect Church – to know God, to find freedom, to discover purpose and to make a difference.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ Luke 15:17-19 (ESV)

The Transition:

“And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.” Luke 15:20 (ESV)

“that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them...” 2 Corinthians 5:19 (ESV)

“And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’” Luke 15:21 (ESV)



**Know
God**

**The Father is a
Picture of God**

The father was not waiting for the son to fix the problem. The father was simply waiting for the son to get to the end of himself and his solutions. Once the son surrendered, the father stepped in with a plan of restoration.

“But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.” Luke 15:22-24 (ESV)

“Most believers only expect to love themselves when they get to heaven, when they are fully free from struggles and fully mature in love. They imagine the resurrection as the day they will finally be free, the day God will be fully happy with them, the day they will achieve full acceptance by the Godhead. They long for that day because they haven’t allowed themselves to experience God’s enjoyment in them now.” Mike Bickle

Once the son comes to know the father, the father orders freedom, purpose and a plan for the son’s life. You could say the son has entered the Growth Track of Lake Effect Church. A chance to Find Freedom, Discover Purpose and to Make a Difference.



**Find
Freedom**

**The Robe is a
Symbol of Freedom**

This is a sign to everyone attending that the son has been fully restored to sonship. It marks that the son has been forgiven and returned to his right place with the father. It is a sign that his shame has been covered by the father.



**Discover
Purpose**

**The Ring is a
Symbol of Purpose**

The ring is the granting of authority to a person. Whoever has such a ring has the power of attorney for his master. He has authority, his master’s authority, to make decisions and to help the master govern his kingdom.