



SAY: Come take our quiz! How close are you to reaching the South Asian American Dream? We're with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and we are exploring the relationship between culture and faith.

PANEL 1 | Quiz

SAY: Based on your score, you got... (show quiz results on clipboard)

- (6-7) South Asian American Royalty | You made it! Your entire community already has your photo on their fridge.
- (4-5) You're on the way! | Not bad! Your parents are pleased, but they'll never tell you directly.
- (2-3) **Keep trying** | You're close! ...but you'll never make it.
- (0-1) It's never gonna happen | Shame...just shame.

ASK: So how accurate is this with your experience growing up? How did your family or community communicate these expectations?

SHARE: How you have seen this in your family/community.

PANEL 2 | Success/Failure Sticker

SAY: Whether or not our families hold us to this, we're always aware of where we are in relation to these cultural expectations.

ASK: How would your family respond to your total success or failure? **SHARE:** Think of a personal example of your own success/failure and how your family or community responded (or how you imagine they would respond).

SAY: Our successes and failures often shape our sense of self-worth. We're having conversations about how our faith addresses that. Do you have a particular faith background? Can I share a story that Jesus tells about a family who deals with these challenges?

PANEL 3 | Summarize the Father/Sons Story from Luke 15

- Asking for inheritance and wants to leave the family home = wishing father was dead. Shames the family and deeply hurts the parents.
- He is living it up in another country, until he runs out of money.
- There's a famine in the land, and the only job he can get is feeding pigs. He's starving and realizes that he's hit rock bottom.
- He's desperate and decides to go home and beg his father for a job. He knows after all he's done, he doesn't deserve to be called a son.
- ASK: How would you respond to the son if you were his parent?
- Father sees him and does something shocking. Instead of disowning, lecturing, or ignoring the son, the father runs and embraces the son.

- Throws a massive party to celebrate the son's return.
- Older son is livid he has been home, obeying and respecting the father.
- Father's response: don't you know how much I love you? Everything that I have has always been yours.

ASK: What are your thoughts or reactions to that story?

SAY: Jesus often told stories that have deeper spiritual meanings. The last panel explains that meaning, and it's actually the main message Jesus had for the world.

PANEL 4 | Four Circles

Circle 1: God designed the world and our families to be a loving place: where we are accepted and valued, not because of what we do but because of who we are. Just like how any good parents love their children.

Circle 2: But when we look at the world around us, it's not like that. We believe this is because humanity doubted God's love. In our selfishness, we untethered ourselves from God and wanted to live life on our own terms. In trying to find our own sense of worth, we shame each other and value people based on what they do or don't do. Our selfishness affects everything—how we see ourselves, our relationships, and even our relationship with God. But, this isn't how it was meant to be.

Circle 3: Jesus wants to restore our relationship with God. Jesus entered the mess and took on himself the consequences of humanity's actions. We're worthy and valuable in God's eyes not because of what we do or fail to do but because of what Jesus did for us. It's Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that makes it possible. In the story, the father welcomed the son with compassion and joy—that's how God receives us.

Circle 4: Being loved by God gives us joy that we can share with other people. Our worth is not because of what we do but because of what God has done for us. This is the good news that Jesus came to tell the world.

ASK: How is this picture that Jesus paints of God similar or different than who you imagine God to be?

ASK: Do you think it's possible to know God in this way?

INVITATIONS:

- We have mini-discussions to talk about stories Jesus shared and their deeper meanings. Would you be free to do something like that? (GIG)
- Hosting an interfaith dialogue with --- on family expectations. Are you free to come? (Faith & Chai)
- Can we pray a prayer of blessing over you and your family? (Ask how you can pray for them).