

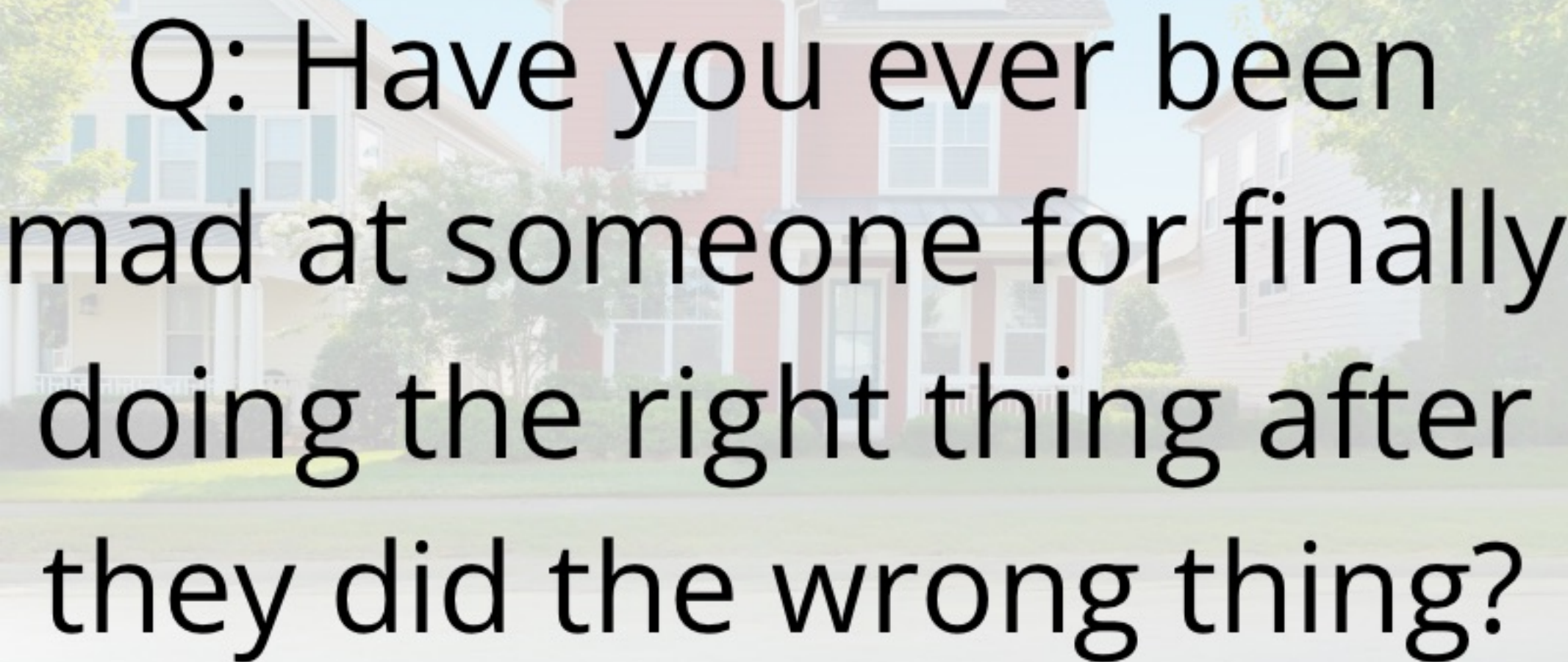


Come Home

A soft-focus background image of a suburban neighborhood. In the center is a two-story red brick house with a white-trimmed front porch and a dormer window. To its left is a white house with blue shutters, and to its right is a light-colored house. Green trees and a clear blue sky are visible in the background.

Our focus today is:

How we should respond to
those who do “Come Home”!

A background image of a suburban street with several houses, including a prominent red one in the center, and green trees under a clear blue sky.

Q: Have you ever been
mad at someone for finally
doing the right thing after
they did the wrong thing?

Luke 15:18-32 NIV

"I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

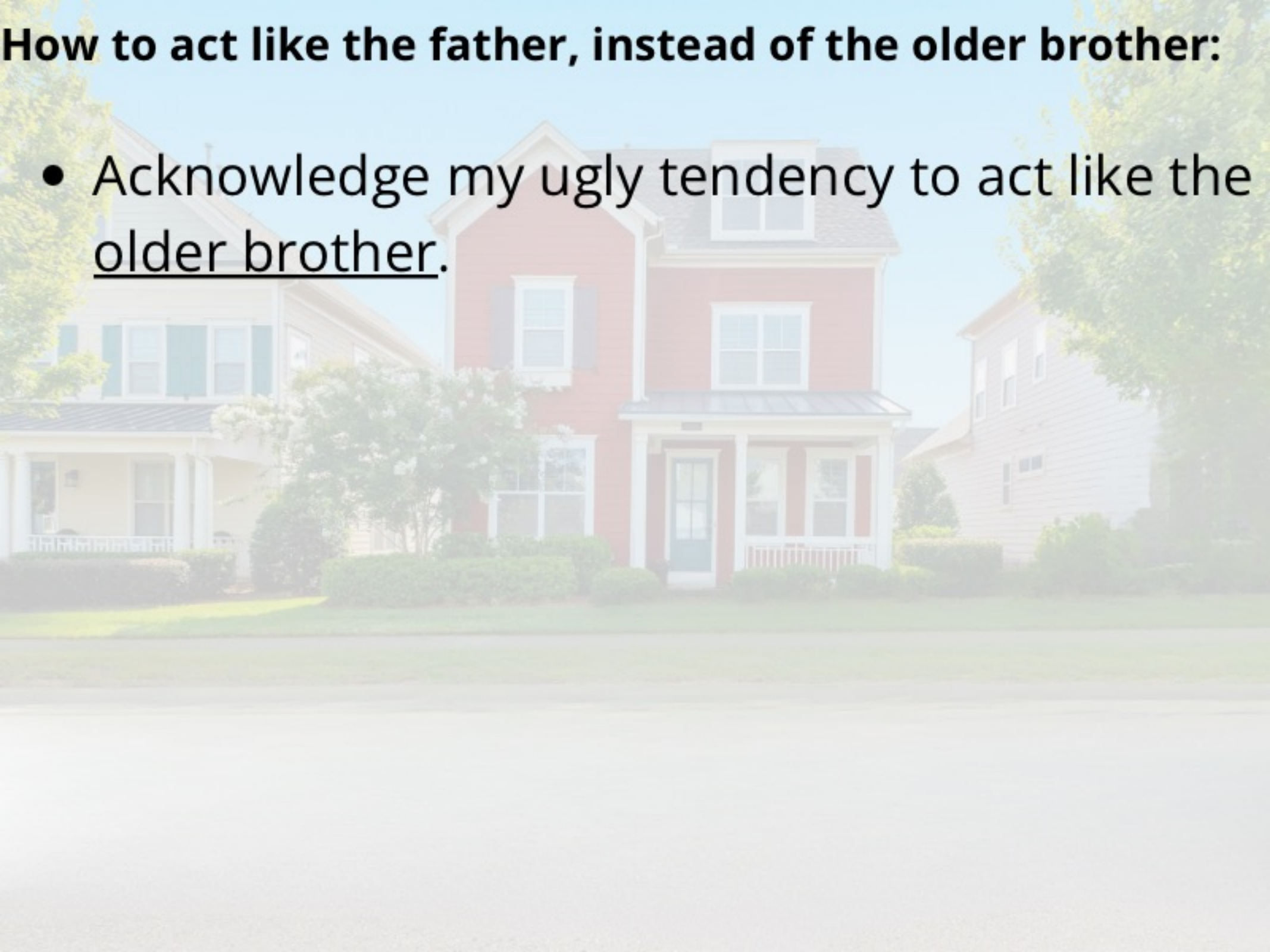
"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:18-32 NIV

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!' "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

How to act like the father, instead of the older brother:

- Acknowledge my ugly tendency to act like the older brother.



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- Meet them on the road, don't make them walk alone.

Key Truth: I can always come home.

A row of suburban houses with green lawns and trees under a clear blue sky. The houses are in various colors, including beige, red, and white. The text is overlaid on the image.

How to treat people when they come home:

1. Forgive.

2. Love.

3. Celebrate.

4. Include.