

# Finding Your Back to God

## Week One

### TALK IT OVER

Please review the main points from the message we received last week. What stood out to you?

#### Key Scripture

**Luke 15:11-16**

#### Message Recap

The phrase "There's got to be more" often arises from a deep-seated sense of longing within our souls. These longings are so universal that they can be found almost everywhere, and reflect a fundamental human desire for something greater than what we currently have or experience. Whether we seek fulfillment in our relationships, careers, or personal growth, this innate desire for more compels us to strive towards our goals and aspirations.

#### Our Longings

- Love
- Purpose
- Meaning

You need to come home.

#### Questions to consider:

Please confirm if the following text is what you intended to convey:

- Did you have a funny story to share about how you lost something valuable?
- How have you recently experienced the joyful side of God's nature? What stood out to you the most about the message?
- Bruce talked about the longing for there to be more to this life. Which longing stood out to you and why?
- Can you think of a time when your life was not the way you wanted it to be, and how did God move you to a better place?
- What is your current "distant country," and are you ready to leave it for God to bring you home?
- What is your opinion about the younger son? Why does he want to leave home?
- What do his actions tell about his attitudes toward his father's wealth, his father, and his life?
- What stages does the son go through?"

**What does Scripture say about finding your way back to God? Test your discussion with scriptural truth.**

Luke 15: 11-16

Matthew 6:25-33

Psalms 63 (see back of this page)

Philippians 4:19

John 6: 35

Romans 8: 1 - 39

#### Next Steps:

For the next 30 days, pray as if God is real. Here is the first of five prayers we will ask you to say:

***"God if you are real, make yourself real to me. Awaken in me the ability to see that you are what's missing from my life."***

If you are on a spiritual journey and seeking to reconnect with God, we suggest you take the first step by making Pascal's wager. Join us for 30 days of prayer and ask, "God, if you exist, reveal yourself to me." Consider it a risk-free opportunity to discover the truth. What do you have to lose? You could gain everything! Ask yourself, where will you turn to fulfill the deep longings we all have? These desires come from God, and they can either lead us to Him or push us away.

## **Psalm 63 : A Prayer of Longing for God**

At times, we may feel disconnected from God, much like how small children feel when they are separated from their parents. During such moments, we may experience feelings of fear, anger, or intense longing for God's return. There could be several reasons for such a sense of separation from God. For instance, it could come from a personal crisis or loss that leaves us feeling neglected or uncared for by God. It could result from personal sin or failure, leaving us in fear of God's condemnation or rejection. Or it could happen when we are removed from our community of faith. Regardless of the reason, feeling separated from God can be incredibly painful and generate a profound longing for His presence. This psalm can help us express our longing for God during such times.

### **Warming Up to God**

- Please think of a moment when you felt particularly close to God. Can you describe what that experience was like for you? Additionally, I recommend reading Psalm 63, as it can help you discover more about the word of God.
- In verse 1 of the Psalm, the writer utilizes a strong physical metaphor of being thirsty in a desert with no sign of water to describe his longing for God. What do you think this metaphor conveys?
- In verses 2 and 3, the writer describes how he previously experienced God's presence. What did he experience of God?
- The writer says that due to his desire to connect with God, he will seek Him, remember Him, and cling to Him. The first step he takes is to seek God earnestly.

The second action the psalmist mentions is 'remembering.' He describes how, where, when, and what he remembers about God.

The third action he describes is 'clinging.' In verse 8, he explains how he clings to God and how God holds him. What is your reaction to the idea of holding on to God?"

### **Applying the Word**

Verse 1 portrays a soul that is thirsty and unable to find water, while verse 5 depicts a soul that is satisfied with the richest of foods.

These images represent the contrast between being separated from God and being close to God. Can you describe a time when you felt disconnected from God using words or images? Similarly, can you describe a time when you felt close to God?

As you reflect on the actions of seeking, remembering, and clinging to God, which one do you think would be the most helpful for you right now?

In prayer, talk to God about your longing for his presence and your sense of deep satisfaction and joy when you are close to him.