



SESSION ONE

ICE BREAKER

Answer this question: What is one wild or rebellious act you committed as a teen or young adult that you now realize was foolish? (It doesn't have to be anything *too* embarrassing!)

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever felt like you "lost" God somewhere along the course of your life (or perhaps never found him in the first place)? If so, describe the sense of separation you have felt and why you continue to want to find him.
2. What is your greatest longing? In other words, when you think of something you wish you had in your life but don't, or wish you understood about your life but can't, what is it?

VIDEO DISCUSSION (ask these questions after playing the weekly video)

3. Think about Jake, Melissa, and Bryce, the three people in the video who told their stories of being far from God. Which one can you relate to the most, and why?
4. How do you feel about the wager that Jon Ferguson talks about in the video? Are you at a point in your life where you are prepared to pray, "God, if you are real, make yourself real to me"?

BIBLE DISCUSSION (ask these questions after reading Luke 15:11-32)

5. Who do you think the three key figures in the story—the father and the two sons—represent?
6. When the younger son decided to ask for his inheritance and leave home, what do you think he was longing for?

LIFE APPLICATION

7. The story of the Prodigal Son reminds us that we all have the feeling that "there's got to be more" to life. Specifically, there are at least three areas of life where we experience these legitimate longings: (a) to find love, (b) to find a purpose for life, and (c) to find meaning in our suffering. Describe a way in which you have a longing or desire in one of those three areas.



SESSION TWO

ICE BREAKER

Describe the following: (a) an item of clothing you're embarrassed to admit you used to wear, (b) a slang expression you can't believe you used to say, or (c) a singer or music group you're amazed that you used to like.

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. As you think back over the major decisions you've made in your life so far, what are some of your biggest regrets? How might these mistakes contribute to your feeling distant from God at times?

VIDEO DISCUSSION (ask these questions after playing the weekly video)

2. How did you see a "sorry cycle" playing out in the lives of the people interviewed in the video?
3. Did Dave and Jon give you a different perspective on repentance than you've had before? If so, tell about that.

BIBLE DISCUSSION (ask these questions after reading Luke 15:11-19)

4. What regrets do you think the son felt when he was alone and had to toil at the lowest of low jobs just to stay alive?
5. How did his regrets lead him to attempt a "do-over" in his life?
6. By the time he made his decision to return home, how had his longings changed since the time when he had asked his dad for his inheritance?

LIFE APPLICATION

7. Have you ever felt yourself stuck in a cycle of longing, disappointment, and regret? If so, describe what was going on.
8. How do you wish you could start over in your life? How do you think your life would be different if you could do it?
9. Do you feel you're ready now for a change that would bring you closer to God? If so, what's the next step? If not, what's holding you back?

LOST & found

God's Gracious Pursuit of Sinners

SESSION THREE

ICE BREAKER

Share a funny story about a time when you got into a jam and needed help. This could be a story about your car getting stuck in the snow, getting a bracelet caught in your hair, or something like that.

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. Tell about a time when you tried to make a fresh start of some kind in your life—a new job, a new relationship, break a bad habit, or improve yourself—and failed. Looking back, why do you think it didn't work?

VIDEO DISCUSSION (ask these questions after playing the weekly video)

2. How did Jeremy, Melissa, and J.R., interviewed in the video, experience their “I can't do this on my own” awakenings?
3. What was it in Dave and Jon's description of God that touched you the most, and why?

BIBLE DISCUSSION (ask these questions after reading Luke 15:14-20)

4. When the son realized he needed some help, who did he think of, and why?
5. What kind of reaction did the young man expect from his father? What kind of reaction did he actually get?
6. What does the reaction by this father (representing God) teach you about having the confidence to return to God?

LIFE APPLICATION

7. Would you say you are at a point of admitting you need help to lead a life different from the one you have? Why or why not?
8. What sort of response do you expect to receive from God if you come to him and ask him to accept you through grace?



SESSION FOUR

ICE BREAKER

Tell about the first time you had a crush on someone. How did you express your feelings? How did the other person react?

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. Identify a time when you strongly felt the love of God toward you. What was your reaction?

VIDEO DISCUSSION (ask these questions after playing the weekly video)

2. How did the people interviewed in the video struggle with doubt that God really loved them?
3. What did you learn from Dave and Jon about the new identity that the father in Jesus' parable gave to the son?

BIBLE DISCUSSION (ask these questions after reading Luke 15:20-24)

4. Identify as many different signs of the father's love as you can find in these verses?
5. What does the father's reaction toward his son tell you about God's attitude toward you when you repent and turn to him?

LIFE APPLICATION

6. Tell about a way in which shame or guilt feelings have lingered in you even after you knew that you were forgiven and accepted by God. How has that leftover feeling of unworthiness affected your life?
7. If we have turned to God in repentance and received his acceptance, how can we help each other learn to accept our new identity as fully loved children of God?
8. Once we have accepted our identity as God's children, what are some ways in which our lives can be different and more fulfilling?

LOST & found

God's Gracious Pursuit of Sinners

SESSION FIVE

ICE BREAKER

Share your answer to this question: When do you feel most alive?

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. What changes have you already seen in yourself during this five week spiritual growth campaign? What changes do you hope to see for yourself in the future?

VIDEO DISCUSSION (ask these questions after playing the weekly video)

2. Would you say that you have a “zoe” kind of life? If so, describe it.
3. What was it in the video that most inspired you about living joyfully in the knowledge of God’s acceptance of you?

BIBLE DISCUSSION (ask these questions after reading Luke 15:22-32)

4. In what sense was the son “dead” and “lost”? In what sense is he now “alive” and “found”?
5. Are these contrasts (alive after being dead, found after being lost) appropriate to describe the changes in us when we find our way back to God? Give your reasons.

LIFE APPLICATION

6. Describe the worship at your church. How does it help to sustain you in your relationship with God?
7. Do you have a regular devotional time of Bible reading, reflection, and prayer? If so, describe your private devotional practice. How does it help to sustain you in your new life with God? If not, how could you begin to make this a habit in your life?
8. Are you part of a small group of people who want to live in the love of God and meet together regularly? If so, how does it help to sustain you in your new life with God? If not, how could you find a small group that fits your needs during this season of your life?
9. Do you engage in some kind of ministry or service (however informal) that seeks to bless others? If so, explain this ministry. How does it help to sustain you in your new life with God? If not, what kind of ministry do you think God has equipped you to be involved with in order to bring his blessings into the lives of others?