

Life Group STUDY GUIDE

What you will need to supplement this guide:

1. A copy of the outline provided for notes on this message (copy from message or downloaded from the COASTAL APP.
2. A Bible or Bible APP to refer to verses.

PURSuing LIFE TOGETHER

SUNDAY MESSAGE REVIEW

NOTE to the Life Group Leader: This guide is provided as a tool to assist you in facilitating a structured discussion with your group. When used in conjunction with the outline notes and a Bible this tool will ensure that your group will *Engage Authentically*. The questions are merely recommended “talk starters”. It is important for you to let God help you navigate through the conversation as you *pursue life together* as a group.

OPEN IN PRAYER

STARTER QUESTIONS:

Where have you seen God at work in your life since we last met?

What stood out to you from the message this week?

MAIN IDEA:

- REVIEW THE MAIN TOPIC OF THE MESSAGE. Allow time for discussion
- READ THE MAIN SCRIPTURE FROM THE MESSAGE OUTLINE.

How did this verse speak to you in your life?

- REVIEW THE SUB-TOPICS of the MESSAGE.

Have someone read each of the verses that were highlighted in the message, and briefly discuss.

Is there an area that you feel God is speaking to you through this message?

FINAL THOUGHTS:

- SUMMARIZE the main idea of this message.

Would anyone like to share your thoughts about what we discussed today?

How can we pray for you as a group? **CLOSE IN PRAYER**

THIS IS US

“When Someone You Love is Making Poor Choices”

SEASON #1: “Bad Decisions”

“Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.” Luke 15:11-16 (NIV)

When someone you love is making bad choices...

- Let them go (“*the younger son... set off for a distant country*”)
- Let them make mistakes (“*...squandered his wealth in wild living*”)

“Sometimes it takes a painful situation to make us change our ways.” Proverbs 20:30

- Let them reap the consequences (“*...he began to be in need.*”)

“Don’t be misled; remember that you can’t ignore God and get away with it: a man will always reap just the kind of crop he sows!” Galatians 6:7 (TLB)

Some consequences of sin:

- Unanswered prayer (Isaiah 59:2)
- Hard heart (Ephesians 4:18-19)
- Spiritual blindness (1 Corinthians 2:14)
- Depraved mind (Romans 1:28)
- Eternal separation from God in hell (Romans 6:23)

Consequences aren’t God’s way of getting us back,
but of bringing us back.

“The Lord... doesn’t want to destroy anyone but wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to him and change the way they think and act.” 2 Peter 3:9 (GW)

SEASON #2: “Turn Around”

“When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 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.’” Luke 15:17-19 (NIV)

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift all of you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail.” Luke 22:31-32 (NIV)

Great prayers for Loved Ones:

- That God will orchestrate circumstances to move them closer to Him
- That God will soften their hearts toward Him
- That God will put godly people in their path
- That God will give you wisdom

SEASON #3: Restoration

“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.” Luke 15:20 (NIV)

- You love them
- You accept them

“He ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.” Luke 15:21 (NIV)

“The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’” Luke 15:22 (NIV)

- You forgive them

“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 15:22-23 (NIV)