

# Welcome Home

## WEEK 4 – NO ORDINARY FATHER

### BIG IDEA:

Have you ever wondered what God is like? Many of us have a distorted view of God. We think of Him as eager to punish, disappointed, or just distant. Jesus set out to shatter some serious distortions about God and give us a clearer picture of who His father really is.

### KEY VERSE:

Luke 15: 17-24 “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.’ 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.”

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is your view of the Father? How does that affect how you relate to Him?
2. Is your relationship with the Lord right now what you want it to be?

#### **Key Point #1: No ordinary father would give his inheritance away.**

3. What does it mean to you that the Father gives us the freedom to make bad choices? Is that difficult for you to accept? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever suffered from the pain of the consequences of a stupid decision? What did God show you through that experience?

#### **Key Point #2: No ordinary father would run in public.**

5. Knowing that in that culture, a patriarch did not run, what would you be thinking if you were the son and you saw your father running to meet you?

#### **Key Point #3: No ordinary father would wipe the slate clean.**

6. Do you let your mistakes define you? What do you think the Father thinks about that?
7. Have you fully received how much the Father loves you? Is this something that is hard for you to do? Why or why not?

### MOVING FORWARD:

Our God is no normal God. God our Father, desires to give you His inheritance today [the gift of eternal life], he runs out to meet you wherever you are [far from Home, or just working your way to try to prove yourself to him], and today He wants to wipe your slate clean [forgive your sins... regardless] and he wants to invite you to come home. As a group, talk about who Jesus presents His Father to be and discuss whether or not this lines up with how you’ve seen God the Father in the past. What steps can you take this week to accept the Father for who He is and accept how He really sees you?