

# Welcome Home

## WEEK 2 – STOP RUNNING

### BIG IDEA:

How many of us remember a time in our lives when we set out to do our own thing? God will allow you to walk as far away from him as you choose. Some of you feel distant from God today. As hard as this is for to accept, God has given some of you exactly what you wanted. He let you go your own way. The problem though – the further you get away from home – the more homesick you become.

### KEY VERSE:

Luke 15:11-24 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. “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. Have you ever felt distant from God? What can you do in those moments to close that gap?
2. Why do you think Jesus shared three stories of the lost being found? What does that reveal about his heart for you?

**Key Point #1: God will allow you to choose your own way.**

3. Share a time when you chose to go your own way? What were the results of that choice?

**Key Point #2: Sin will take you further than you ever intended to go, keep you longer than you ever intended to stay, and always cost you more than you ever intended to pay**

4. Can you pinpoint the time in your life when you set out in the wrong direction? A time when you found yourself in a place you never intended to be?

**Key Point #3: “There is a grace period between our sin and punishment that is called pleasure.”**

5. “Just because you haven’t had your life fall apart yet, doesn’t mean you’re heading in the right direction.” What does that mean to you?

6. You ever been lower than you ever thought you would be?

**Key Point #4: Stop running from something and start running to someone.**

7. What is the first step toward coming home for you?

8. What does it mean to receive God's grace? What does that feel like? Is that challenging for you?

### **MOVING FORWARD:**

God's love began for you long before you ever traveled far from home, & as you take a step towards him today, he runs out to meet you. When he runs to meet you – he embraces you – he forgives you – and then he restores you. He says not only am I going to restore you, but I'm going to give you back everything you thought you lost when you left home. As a group, discuss together what it is that keeps you from "coming home"?