

Coming Home: Group Study

This Is Our Story: **Week 4**

Passage: Luke 15:17-22

Sermon Outline:

Repentance is an **awakening** that leads to **action**.

- Admit our **desperate need**.
- Honestly own **our sin**.
- Embrace a **reliance on grace**.

When you come to **your senses**, you run to **your father**.

When you run to **the father**, he runs **toward you**!

Discussion Questions from “This Is Our Story” Booklet

Discussion helps are indented, italic, & blue.

ICEBREAKER from the SERMON (not in the book): Are you one of those people who need a special alarm clock that runs away from you? Do you hit the snooze button or do you have a spouse who does?

All of us have dealt with relationships that have been broken by sin, but do you have any stories of relationships that were healed because of repentance?

Leaders, come prepared with a story.

† Discover

Read Luke 15:17-19. What attribute(s) did the son see in his father that made him willing to come home? How did the son expect the father to respond?

Ask your group to speculate a bit about what the younger son was assuming about his Dad.

What attributes does the Bible teach us about God that might influence our decision to come home to him? Why is it still so hard to ask for forgiveness sometimes?

Pastor Ryan brought up Genesis 3:8, when Adam and Eve hid from God. Look at the next verse. What are the first words of God to sinful people? What do they suggest about the character of our God?

Try to break down the son's prepared apology. What can you learn about his heart from this?

Notice that the son seems truly repentant.

♥ **Nurture**

Read 2 Corinthians 7:8-11. In verse 10, Paul suggests that there are two kinds of "grief" or "sorrow," then he explains the outcomes of each in verse 11. How would you explain the differences between the two?

Encourage your people to find this for themselves in the text... just invite them to open up to this passage and make observations about what it says. (But notice that the next question is very related).

What are the ways that the Corinthians showed "godly grief"?

Read Genesis 3:8-13. What kind of grief do Adam & Eve show here? What does this teach us about how not to respond?

Now compare those observations to the way that Adam & Eve respond. Notice how they do the exact opposite. A fun set of questions would be: What do you think would have happened if they would have really repented? What would God have done? How might the world be different today? We can never know the answer to these questions, but they are interesting to ponder.

How can we become people who practice "godly grief"?

○ **Act**

Is there something in your past that you need to "arise and go to" for forgiveness? This may be too personal of a question to share publicly (so no pressure), but if the Lord leads you to share, this may be encouraging to others in your group.

Ask the question and just wait... maybe someone will open up. If they do, encourage them.

P.S. There are only 2 weeks left in this study. This week, pray about whether this is a group that you'd want to continue.

If your group is one that has been meeting before this study, then we'll keep providing group questions all the way through the month of March. We will take a break on Palm Sunday (April 2 & 9), but then we'll start back up after that.

If you as a leader are only committed to this series, then please still ask the group if they want to keep meeting. If so, here are the options: they can keep meeting and pray about one of them stepping into the leadership role or they can sign up for another group after this. Either way, we'd love to help.

