



HOME GROUP GUIDE

For the week of January 14th, 2018

Real Life Ministries Treasure Valley



HOME GROUP GUIDELINES

FOR US TO HAVE HEALTHY AND SAFE CONVERSATIONS

THIS IS A SAFE GROUP

- We will all do our part to create an environment where everyone can be real, open and honest with their struggles and victories

CONFIDENTIALITY IS KEY

- What is said in the group stays in the group

NO CROSSTALK

- Crosstalk is a conversation that leaves others out
- No side conversations
- Listen while others are speaking (if you want to explore more of what someone said, call or talk to them afterwards. This also builds relationship outside of the group time)

NO FIXING OR RESCUING

- We are not here to fix each other, Jesus does that part
- Give encouragement, speak truth, point to Jesus
- Life is a journey, allow people to struggle - grow

CREATE OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERYONE TO SHARE

- Be sensitive about the amount of time you share
- Allow time for others to be a part of the discussion, don't be a first responder

USE "I" VS. "WE" OR "THEM" STATEMENTS

- This is a time for us as individuals to grow
- Work on honesty, transparency, authenticity
- Be committed to resolve conflict Biblically

As humans we will need to extend grace to one another. Conflict is not bad, but an opportunity for growth. We are all being changed to be more like Jesus so conflict and change are part of the journey.

Here are some key scriptures to refer to:

- If someone sins against you. (Matthew 18:15-20)
- Restoring someone in sin. (Galatians 6:1-5)
- Forgive a sinner. (Colossians 3:12-13)
- Reconciling differences. (Matthew 5:23-24)

House Rules (slightly different in each home)

- Honor group start and end times.
- Kid safety guidelines and clean up.

Finding Your Way Back to God #2

THEME: "Awakening to Regret - I Wish I Could Start Over"

TEXT: Luke 15:11-32 + Adapted Content from Participant's Guide

USE THE FOLLOWING TO LEAD YOUR GROUP THROUGH THE DISCUSSION ...

Guidelines: *Read and/or discuss the HG guidelines (see above).*

Vision & Mission: *Share the vision & mission of RLM with your group.*

VISION: *Reaching the world for Jesus, one person at a time.*

MISSION: *Creating Biblical disciples in relational environments.*

Icebreaker: *Take an opportunity to get your group going with a question/game.*

ICEBREAKER SUGGESTION:

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 you used to like.

Set the Scene: *This week's content is drawn from the week 2 video and Luke 15:11-32 as we continue our discussion of "Finding Your Way Back to God." In this week's session, we will talk about "awakening to regret":*

*When we seek to fulfill our longings for love, purpose, and meaning on our own, we repeatedly find disappointment. The regret we feel for taking our own route can lead either to more longing and regret (we call it the "sorry cycle") or motivate us to seek help from the One who can help us most. You don't have to waste the power of your sincere regret on more self-condemnation and stuckness. You can let it move you confidently in God's direction. Why? Because now you know the truth, and it's a truth that you can put to work in your life over and over again in the years ahead: with God, we can **always** start over.*

*~ from **Finding Your Way Back to God, Participant's Guide - Session 2** ~*

Opening Questions: *Get people talking and ready for the video content.*

1. Some people live stuck in regret; others act like they regret nothing. Where are you at on the spectrum?

Video & Discussion: *Watch video 2 from the DVD or via RightNowMedia, and then discuss what you watch.*

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

Biblical Text & Discussion: *Read Luke 15:11-32, and then discuss the questions.*

1. What stood out to you from the text (or the sermon)?
2. 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?
3. How did his regrets lead him to attempt a “do-over” in his life?
4. How do you wish you could start over in your life?
5. Do you feel you’re ready now for a change that would bring you closer to God? If so, what’s the next step?

Summary: *2 CORINTHIANS 7:10 SAYS: “GODLY SORROW PRODUCES REPENTANCE THAT LEADS TO SALVATION AND LEAVES NO REGRET, BUT WORDLY SORROW BRINGS DEATH.” OUR REGRETS CAN DRIVE US TO A PLACE WHERE WE HAVE A CHANGE OF MIND AND HEART - A PLACE WHERE WE ARE SORRY ENOUGH TO CHANGE AND RETURN TO THE FATHER.*

Prayer: *Have someone from your group record the requests and pray together.*

Preparation for Next Time:

Next Week: We will be continuing our series: “Finding Your Way Back to God.”

Preparation: Watch the video from week 3 and read through session 3 in your participant's guide (Leaders). Pray for your group and touch base with them throughout the week.