



FINDING YOUR
WAY BACK TO GOD

HOME GROUP GUIDE

For the week of January 21st, 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 #3

THEME: "Awakening to Help - I Can't Do This On My Own"

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:

Share a humorous story about a time when you got into a jam or situation you couldn't get through or get out of on your own (example: car getting stuck).

Set the Scene: *This week's content is drawn from the week 3 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 help":*

Until we admit that we are powerless on our own to find fulfillment in this life, we will never truly find our way back to God. But once we recognize our need for help, we have already made the turn that leads us home to our Heavenly Father. If you're like every other person, you'll try to go it on your own many times in the years to come. ... BUT, you and I can't do it on our own, and that is very good to know. Let your awakening to your need for help continue to shape your choices in the years ahead. Help has a name. His name is Jesus. And He will never leave you. Every time you turn away from self-centeredness and pride, He will be there to rescue, strengthen, and guide your journey with Him.

*~ from **Finding Your Way Back to God, Participant's Guide - Session 3** ~*

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

1. Tell about a time when you tried to make a fresh start of some kind in your life - a new job, break a bad habit, etc. - and failed. Why do you think it didn't work out?

Video & Discussion: *Watch video 3 from the DVD or via RightNowMedia, and then discuss what you watch.*

1. How did the people interviewed in the video awaken to their need for help?
2. What in Dave and Jon's description of God touched you? Why?.

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. When the son realized he needed help, who did he think of? Why?
3. What kind of reaction did the young man expect from his father?
4. The reaction of the father was very different from what the son expected. What does the father's reaction teach you about having confidence to return to God?
5. Are you at a point of admitting you need help to lead a different life or go further on your journey with God? Why or why not?

Summary: *WE MUST ACCEPT HELP. HELP HAS A NAME - JESUS. CONSIDER ONE OF TWO THINGS: (1) TURN YOUR LIFE OVER TO JESUS IF YOU HAVEN'T YET: CONFESS YOUR SINS, REQUEST FORGIVENESS, AND ASK JESUS TO BE YOUR SAVIOR AND LEADER; (2) IF YOU ALREADY KNOW JESUS, BUT HAVE GROWN DISTANT FROM HIM IN ANY WAY, TELL HIM YOU WANT TO RECOMMIT YOUR LIFE. ASK FOR HIS HELP AND THE HELP OF OTHERS.*

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 4 and read through session 4 in your participant's guide (Leaders). Pray for your group and touch base with them throughout the week.