



HOME GROUP GUIDE

For the week of January 28th, 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 #4

*THEME: "Awakening to Love - **God Loves Me Deeply After All**"*

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:

Think about your first crush ... How did you express your feelings? How did your crush react?

Set the Scene: *This week's content is drawn from the week 4 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 love":*

We experience the irresistible love of God in Jesus when we finally return home to our Father. The grace he offers to every one of us is something we can't find anywhere else. It's almost shocking. It's overwhelming. ... And it is what we truly long for and were made to experience. As we awaken to God's love in our lives, some of the choices that seemed impossible before gradually become possible. Trusting God through the ups and downs of life becomes possible. Becoming more like His Son, Jesus Christ, becomes possible - and our deepest desire. And there's more: Believing in His faithful care for us and those we love makes absolute sense, infusing our days with God's peace. Knowing that not only does He love us but He loves everyone in the world ... compels us to share the good news of Jesus with others. That's the wonder of God's deep love for you and me. It has the power to heal us, change us, energize our hopes and dreams, and motivate us to serve Him with our whole lives. So from this day forward, live boldly in His love. Never let doubt and discouragement take away what you know to be true!

*~ from **Finding Your Way Back to God, Participant's Guide - Session 4** ~*

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

1. Tell of a time you strongly felt the love of God toward you? What was your reaction?

Video & Discussion: *Watch video 4 from RightNowMedia and then discuss.*

1. How did the people in the video struggle with doubt that God really love them?
2. What did you learn about the new identity the father gave to the son?

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 does the father's reaction toward his son tell you about God's attitude toward you when you repent and turn to him?
3. Have shame and guilt feelings lingered in you even after you've gone back to God? What has that crack in your identity led you to?
4. Thank God now for His love, and ask Him for the ability to gain a better sense of His love and a better sense of your identity in Him and His grace.

Summary: *GOD WANTS US TO RETURN TO HIM! HE WANTS TO HEAL, RESTORE, RENEW, AND REDEEM US! JESUS WENT TO THE CROSS TO TAKE AWAY ALL PUNISHMENT AND ALL OF GOD'S ANGER AGAINST SIN. AS JOHN TELLS US IN 1 JOHN 4:10: "THIS IS LOVE: NOT THAT WE LOVED GOD, BUT THAT HE LOVED US AND SENT HIS SON AS AN ATONING SACRIFICE FOR OUR SINS."*

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 5 and read through session 5 in your participant's guide (Leaders). Pray for your group and touch base with them throughout the week.