

Coming Home - A Journey of Identity

1. Home is the Father's love, where we hear His voice and we know we are fully accepted. Our Father deeply and perfectly loves his children and longs for us to live with Him. His desire for us is that we never leave home.

1 John 3:1a; Ephesians 3:17-19

Home is where I'm fully known- *Psalms 139:1*

Home is where I'm fully accepted- *Romans 15:7*

Home is where I belong- *John 14:1-3*

Home is where I have innate value- *Ephesians 2:10*

Home is where I am comforted- *2 Corinthians 1:3-4a*

Home is where I'm rejoiced over- *Zephaniah 3:17*

Home is where I am strengthened- *Psalms 46:1*

Home is where the Father gives me His blessing- *Jer. 3:19*

Home is where I rest- *Isaiah 26:3*

Home is my inheritance and my future- *1 Peter 1:3-5*

2. The Father gives me the choice to leave home, go my own way, but He is always longing for me to come home. He knows that loving relationship is only authentic when I choose to love Him in return. He is always waiting for me to come home to His love again.

The Return of the Prodigal Son- Henri Nouwen

3. If home is so great, why would we ever leave? We leave home because we are willful, self-centered children who think we can be happier away from home and the Father's love. The fact is, we can't come home if we've never left, and part of the journey of identity is leaving home, discovering life is not good without the Father, and coming back home to Him. *Isaiah 53:6; Colossians 1:19-21; Colossians 1:11-14*

Next week's reading guide:

Luke 15:13-19

Psalms 32:1-11

Luke 15:3-10

Isaiah 53:5-6

Ezekiel 34:11-16

Psalms 107:1-32

Discussion Questions:

1. When you think of "home" and "father", what kind of feelings does it produce. It is very usual to have a "mixed bag" of feelings.
2. When you think about God as your Father, what kind of feelings does it produce? What would it take to trust that God you Father has only love for you?
3. What descriptor of Home and the Father is the hardest for your to believe? (belong, comfort, rejoiced over). Why?
4. Share about what your "far country", away from home and the Father's love, has been for you.
5. Take some time talking as a group about the richness of our inheritance.