

Coming Home - Journey to the Distant Land

Prodigal: Careless, reckless and wasteful with the resources I've been given. *Luke 15:10b-12; Luke 13:34; Isaiah 49:15-16; Luke 15:13*

1. The Distant Land is anytime I leave the secure home and loving voice of the Father and try to find unconditional love and acceptance in the world and from people, away from the Father.

Leaving home is “a denial of the spiritual reality that I belong to God with every part of my being, that God holds me safe in an eternal embrace, that I am indeed carried in the palms of God’s hands and hidden in their shadows. Leaving home means ignoring the truth that God has ‘fashioned me in secret, molded me in the depths of the earth and knitted me together in my mother’s womb’. Leaving home is living as though I do not yet have a home and must look far and wide to find one. Home is the center of my being where I can hear the voice that says: ‘You are my Beloved, on you my favor rests’.” – **Henri Nouwen**

2. God in His loving mercy allows us to run out of our own resources so we will realize we are desperate without Him, and come back home to His love. *Luke 15:14; Luke 15:15-16; Psalm 46:1; Matthew 7:5; Luke 15:17-19*

3. When we come to the end of our resources we begin to get hungry for home and all the benefits of the Father’s love. So we start for home. The road back home to the Father’s love and acceptance is paved with sorrow, repentance, confession and humility. *2 Corinthians 7:10; Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57:15*

Next week’s reading guide: Home, Away from Home

Luke 15:25-32

Luke 15:1-10

Isaiah 57:14-21

Matthew 9:9-13

Matthew 12:1-14

Matthew 20:1-16

Matthew 23

Discussion Questions:

1. Icebreaker: What is the most Distant Land (literal) you’ve visited? What did you like about it?
2. What Distant Land away from the Father’s love have you experienced? What was it like?
3. What was the famine that brought you back to the Father’s love?
4. Have you ever experienced true Godly sorrow that leads to humility and heart change? Share about it. What has changed because of the Godly sorrow.
5. When you think of your Heavenly Father, and coming home to him after squandering your life and resources, how do you see Him? Will you accept the Biblical picture of Him running to meet you, embrace you, restore you and heal you?