

HOW TO USE THIS GROUP GUIDE

CONNECT (10 MINS)

- Pick one or more of the warm-up questions and have all the group members give a response to the question(s).
- Make sure everybody gets a chance to speak. Don't let talkative people dominate the conversation, but graciously welcome everybody to participate.

TRUTH (15-20 MIN)

- Read the scriptures and paragraphs in this section to clearly communicate what the Bible says about the week's topic.
- **"DISCUSS" sections:** These sections get people discussing the practical implications of the truth being discussed. Have one or two people give an answer, but don't spend too much time on these questions.

GRACE (5 MINS)

- Read the grace scripture and section which shows how the passage points to Jesus Christ and God's grace.
- This section is really important, because it shows that life change begins with the grace of God and not our own efforts.

CHANGE (10-15 MINS)

- Have everyone give an answer to each of the change questions.
- Take a good amount of time here. Really encourage people to think through how they can practically put truth into action.

PRAYER (10-15 MINS)

- Read through the prayer focus points and have one or two people in the group pray.
- Make sure not to rush through prayer. The things we want God to change in our lives will often happen through prayer.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN (2 MINS)

- This final portion aims to get people reading the Bible for themselves and thinking about engaging others with the gospel.



w/God

Week One
Coming Home with God

Connect

*BREAK THE ICE AND
GET PEOPLE TALKING*

- What tempts you away from God?
- When do you most enjoy God?

Truth

UNDERSTAND AND DISCUSS
THE SCRIPTURE'S MEANING

For the next three weeks, we'll be in a new series called *With God*.

This week, we'll be learning from Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, allowing God to remind us that coming home to God is *God's deepest desire and our greatest need*.

GOD'S DEEPEST DESIRE...

READ: Read Luke 15:11-32

DISCUSS: What is the father's heart towards his sons?

God, like the father in Jesus' parable, wants us to be *with* him and to *enjoy* him.

...AND OUR GREATEST NEED

READ: Read Luke 15:14-20 and 28-32

DISCUSS: What distances each son from his father?

The younger brother (like all of us!) leaves his father's side because he thinks there is greater joy elsewhere; but the older brother begins to resent his father (like all of us!) because he forgets the joy he could have in his father's company.

Grace

SEE HOW THE PASSAGE CONNECTS TO JESUS

READ: Luke 15:22-24, slowly.

What does this passage tell you about God's heart toward you?

Change

*APPLY THE PASSAGE TO OUR
THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, AND ACTIONS*

- What is getting in the way of you truly enjoying God?
- How can you enjoy God this week?

Prayer

RESPOND TO THE PASSAGE IN PRAYER

- Spend some time praising God's graciousness and kindness in reconciling us to Him.
- Pray for God to lead you into greater enjoyment of Him this week.

DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you spent time with God consistently the past week?
- Who is someone you're bringing Christ to?



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