# 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.

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### 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.



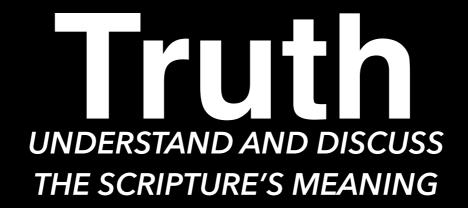
### w/God

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?



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.



**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?



### w/God