



THRIVE CHURCH

GROWTH GROUP STUDY GUIDE | **SERIES: FOCUS: LEARNING TO SEE CLEARLY**

TITLE: RESTORATION

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 15:11-32

One Thing Follow-up:

Faith is demonstrated in acts of love. Only when I understand my sin am I really willing to love the least of these.

Q. What is your favorite way to demonstrate love?

Opening

As Christians, Scripture is our guide. This means all Scripture, not just the warm and fuzzy parts. Scripture can be hard, convicting. Everything we need to know about God and everything God has to say to Christians can be found on the pages of Scripture. As Christians, we need to be people of Scripture now, maybe more than ever.

Series Review

We are starting a new series this week called Focus: Learning to see clearly. This series will focus on the parables shared by Jesus. These parables will both challenge us and instruct us. We will see the power of Restoration in the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

Review the Message

The “He also said,...” lets us know that this is another parable in a series of teachings.

Read Luke 15:11-12

These verses introduce us to two of the three characters and the there is no relationship with the father.

Q. Speak about a time when you rebelled against God?

Q. Have you ever felt like you were dead to someone or told someone that they were “dead to me”?

Read Luke 15:13-19

Unhealed woundedness always seeks to medicate itself with pleasure.

Q. How do you “medicate” your unhealed wounds?

Q. What has been your worst case scenario or crisis moment?

Q. What or who brought you to your senses?

Q. Share a time when you had to “go home” to repent and received a different response than you expected?

Read Luke 15:20-24

“So he got up and went...” This is a perfect picture of repentance and the youngest son was practicing his confession.

Q. What does repentance mean?

Q. Do you feel confession is as important as repentance? Why or why not?

“while the son was still a long way off,”

Q. What does this verse mean the father was doing?

Q. When have you acted with compassion even if it meant you would humiliate yourself?

Q. How does understanding the culture of the time help to understand the father’s actions?

The father brings his son from death to life and throws a party to signify the restoration of the son.

Read Luke 15:25-31

The older son hears the “party” and distances himself by asking a servant rather than finding out for himself.

Q. Share a time when you have intentionally separated yourself.

Q. When is the last time you were angry by what someone else was being celebrated?

Living It Out Application

The oldest son believes that because he has done everything right and what he is supposed to do that his anger is justified. Realistically he doesn't have a relationship with his father either.

Q. When have you felt like the older son?

The series of parables shows the compassion of the Shepherd with the lost sheep, lost coin, and the Prodigal Son.

The father in the "Prodigal Son" is a picture of Jesus and to the great lengths He will go to restore us.

Three options of application. If you see yourself in the younger son, come home. He's willing to come running and restore what was lost. He humiliated himself for us.

If you see yourself in the older son, come home. Jesus wants a relationship with you. You can go about trying to keep the rules all you want but having a relationship is different.

As a church-Invite folks to come home.

Q. What is God saying to you through this lesson?

Q. What will you do about it this coming week?

Q. How can we help you?

Prayer:

Q. Are there any specific things we need to pray about or needs to focus on?