

LIFE GROUP CURRICULUM - WEEK 2



SCRIPTURE | OBSERVATION | APPLICATION | PRAYER

Have someone read the passage or go around the circle and have everyone read a verse out loud. Then take some time to write down observations and applications. Next, discuss these as a group.

The Parable of the Lost Son, Luke 15:11-32



SCRIPTURE

¹¹ Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons.

¹² The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

¹³ "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around

NOTES



OBSERVATION



APPLICATION

TAKE YOUR LIFE BACK

WEEK 2 REACTIVE LIVING





SCRIPTURE

him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

NOTES



OBSERVATION



APPLICATION

TAKE YOUR LIFE BACK



▶ PLAY SESSION 2 OF THE STUDY

DISCUSS AS A GROUP

1. There have been books written about how birth order tends to correlate with personality. For example, the first-born tends to be the responsible one, the middle child tends to be the peacemaker and the youngest tends to be the rebel. Go around the circle and share: Did this prove to be true in your family growing up?
2. From a spiritual perspective, what are the dangers of being a rule follower like the older child or in being a rebel like the younger child?
3. From a spiritual perspective, what are the benefits of being a rule follower like the older child or in being the rebel like the younger child?
4. Have you ever noticed that it is the people who are closest to us who have the ability to most effectively push our buttons? Why do you think that is?
5. We all have times in our lives when we slip into reactive living. From the list below: We deny, we minimize, we comply, we adhere, we deceive, we cover, we enable, we control, we attack and we isolate. As a group, discuss which of these tend to be your go-to ways of reactive living.
 - ☐ **WE DENY:** We refuse to deal with our issues, downplaying our need for change in comparison to someone else's problems. Or, we deny that there's anything we can do about it.
 - ☐ **WE MINIMIZE:** We don't acknowledge the full scope and intensity of our struggles.
 - ☐ **WE COMPLY:** We fall in line and absorb whatever comes our way.
 - ☐ **WE ADHERE:** We latch on to anyone who will have us, no matter how we're treated.
 - ☐ **WE DECEIVE:** We refuse to see what is real and true about our lives, misleading others and ourselves.
 - ☐ **WE PLACATE:** We give away little pieces of ourselves to appease others and reduce tension.
 - ☐ **WE COVER:** We disguise, conceal, and bury the pain of our wounds with superficial treatment.
 - ☐ **WE ENABLE:** We go along with whatever happens because we have rationalized the behavior of others. We make excuses, look the other way, or even join in to avoid conflict.
 - ☐ **WE CONTROL:** We take charge to avoid feeling powerless or hopeless – sometimes to the point of developing our own addictions, compulsions, or dependencies.
 - ☐ **WE ATTACK:** We criticize everything that doesn't please us perfectly, destroying the people we hold responsible for our pain with our words and our disappointment.
 - ☐ **WE ISOLATE:** We pull away from meaningful engagement and stop letting others into our lives – even those who care for us and could help us.

TAKE YOUR LIFE BACK



6. In what ways is reactive living incompatible with taking your life back?
7. How do you go about making the shift from reactive living to taking your life back?

END IN PRAYER

TAKE YOUR LIFE BACK

