

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

WELCOME HOME – PRODIGAL SON – PART 4

START TALKING. WITH AN ICEBREAKER QUESTION:

- You can find some on page 6 [here](#).
- Where have you lived?

START THINKING. ASK QUESTIONS THAT WILL GET YOUR GROUP THINKING.

- What stories have you heard about people trying to “connect to their history/home/ancestry?” Do you think they were successful?
- How is the idea of “home” viewed differently across different cultures?
- Read the scriptures **in bold** on the next page in preparation for the following conversation.

START SHARING. CHOOSE THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL CREATE OPENNESS.

- What is the farthest from “home” you have ever traveled?
- Scripture teaches that believers connected to the Capital “C” Church are part of the “Family of God.” How does your connection to the local Church compare/contrast to your connection to your family of origin?
- Pastor Mark’s first point was, “We are disconnected from something we were designed for.” Explain how you have felt/sensed this truth in your life.
- Point number two was, “Home is where the Father is.” How is this freeing and empowering to people to whom the common interpretation of “home” is not heart warming to them? What about people far from home against their will? Refugees. Prisoners. Etc.
- True Home is unreachable due to brokenness within humans, and brokenness around humans. Describe how much you love being on Earth, but how you don’t really belong here.
- How has being connected to a local group of believers, The Church, changed your life. How are you no longer “apart” from Home, because you are “a part” of Home/Church/Family?
- What has been your favorite moment of the series, Welcome Home?

START PRAYING. BE BOLD, AND PRAY WITH POWER.

- Father. Where You are, I am Home. Jesus, thank you for preparing a place for me, so that where you are, I can be as well. Amen.

START DOING. COMMIT TO A STEP AND LIVE IT OUT THIS WEEK.

- Next time you walk into your house, tell yourself, “This is not my Home.”

Luke 15:11-32 (NIV)

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 men 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 men.'

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 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.'"