

Connect group notes
A Better Story
Week 3

Opening Question:

Are you the kind of person who moves on from things quickly or do you take a while to get used to new things?

Read Luke 15:11-24

As you read this passage get the group to imagine the story through the eyes of the younger son. What was he feeling? Thinking?

Read it slowly to your group to allow them to put themselves in the story.

What are the groups reflections?

Andy talking about reasons why people leave God looked at the 4 “Dis”s - Have you ever been either:

- Disappointed
- Disaffected
- Disinterested
- Distracted

Have you ever been disappointed, disaffected, disinterested, or distracted To the point where you’ve almost walked away from God/Church?

The younger son spent a long time with the pigs, Andy suggested that it was maybe guilt and shame that kept him from coming home, why do you think we allow guilt and shame to keep us from returning to God?

In verse 17-20 the younger son has an AHA moment (Awakening, Honesty, Action), have there been times in your life where you’ve had moments like this? Where perhaps do you need to have one?

Once the son returns home he’s given gifts by his father:

Robe - Forgiven - It’s been covered. Imagine the filth and the state he was in... the robe covers it! Adam & Eve - Genesis 3:21

Ring - Identity, symbol of the family and the authority of his father.

Sandals - Slaves were barefoot, sons wear shoes - You’re not captive to this stuff anymore. You’re a free man!

Calf - I’ve been waiting for you. We’ve been preparing for this day. We never gave up!

Celebration - This is worth celebrating, it’s not a consolation or ‘just another one’ this is trophy worthy!

Which of the above stands out as most significant for you personally?

Why do you think Andy would suggest that prodigals coming home is the deepest thing we can experience as a church? Who are you praying for to return to God?

Prayer

Pray for those you are connected to who are far from God that you’d like to see come home!