

11.06.16 Identity
Discussion Questions

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Questions

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Have you ever had an event where the people who were there told very different stories about it?
2. When you tell the story of your life how do you choose which pieces to share?
3. If you're group did road maps on Sunday, you may want to start by giving people a chance to share them. You could also give people a chance to work on them more before sharing.

Background

The parable of the prodigal son is included in the Gospel of Luke alongside several other parables about finding lost things. Parables were a common way used by authors and teachers in the first century to get their point across without hurting feelings. By including the prodigal son parable with the others about finding lost items it gives some context for where the emphasis should be as we strive to understand. This story is the story of all of us who have been found by Jesus and are striving to be continually moving closer to him.

Read Luke 15:11-30

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

4. What do the younger son and older son have in common? What is different between them?
5. How is the Father's response to both son's similar?
6. How would you describe how the younger son understands his life story?
7. How would you describe how the old son understands his life story?
8. What is the key that allows the Father to see his sons so differently than they see themselves?

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

9. What does it mean to understand our small life stories as fitting in God's Great Story?
10. How can a person allow God to shape the way they understand their life story? What practices have helped you in the past?

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. What character do you find yourself identifying with and why?
2. What is the good news in this passage for you?
3. How are you tempted to tell the story of the season you are currently in? How would God tell the story of the season you are currently in?

Closing

Spend some time praying for eyes to see those who are returning to Jesus and to know how to welcome them the same way Jesus did.

Reminder: We did not come into this world by chance or happenstance and our true identity is defined and refined by Jesus. It is to him and him alone that we ultimately belong and he gives us our story and the lens through which to understand it.