

1/1/17 | FINDING YOUR WAY BACK TO GOD:



The Awakening to Longing

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What is one wild or rebellious act you committed as a teen or young adult that you now realize was foolish? (It doesn't have to be anything too embarrassing!)
2. Have you ever felt like you "lost" God somewhere along the course of your life (or perhaps never found Him in the first place)? If so, describe the sense of separation you have felt and why you continue to want to find Him.
3. What is your greatest longing? In other words, when you think of something you wish you had in your life but don't, or wish you understood about your life but can't, what is it?
4. There are three areas of life where all of us have legitimate longings: (a) to find love, (b) to find a purpose for life, and (c) to find meaning in our suffering. Describe a way in which you have a longing or desire in one of those three areas.
5. Have you ever had one of your major desires fulfilled but then found that the fulfillment wasn't enough—you were left with more longing and dissatisfaction? If so, describe the experience.
6. In what ways are your dissatisfactions and desires pushing you away from God? In what ways are they motivating you to seek God?
7. How does being aware of our longings help us understand our relationship to/with God?

Read Luke 15:11-32

8. What do you think the three key figures in the story—the father and the two sons—represent?
9. When the younger son decided to ask for his inheritance and leave home, what do you think he was longing for?

Read John 4:4-26

10. What longings do you think the woman had? How were these longings similar to the physical need for a drink to quench your thirst?
11. What is “living water?” How does it give permanent satisfaction?

Read Psalm 63:1-8

12. What images does David use to express his longing for God? Which one interests you the most, and why?
13. What indications do you see that God was able to satisfy David’s longings?

Read Psalm 42:1-5

14. Underline portions that mean the most to you. Think about this in light of Psalm 42:1-5... Lately what have I been longing for? Is it possible that a longing for God is really at the root of all my other longings? Where is all this leading me?

TAKE AWAY:

Pray this prayer: *“God, if you are real, make yourself real to me. Awaken in me the ability to see that you are what’s missing from my life.”*