

1/22/17 | FINDING YOUR WAY BACK TO GOD:



The Awakening to Love

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Identify a time when you strongly felt the love of God toward you. What was your reaction?
2. Tell about a way in which shame or guilt feelings have lingered in you even after you knew that you were forgiven and accepted by God. How has that leftover feeling of unworthiness affected your life?
3. If we have turned to God in repentance and received his acceptance, how can we help each other learn to accept our new identity as fully loved children of God?
4. Once we have accepted our identity as God's children, what are some ways in which our lives can be different and more fulfilling?

Read Luke 15:20-24

5. Identify as many different signs of the father's love as you can find in these verses.
6. What does the father's reaction toward his son tell you about God's attitude toward you when you repent and turn to him?
7. What are the kinds of situations that trigger your doubts about God's love for you?
8. When those situations arise, what Bible verse could you use to remind yourself of God's free gift of love to you? Decide that you

will recall this verse whenever you need to hear God's voice of affirmation again.

Read 1 John 3:1

9. What do you think it is about becoming a child of God that is evidently so hard for people to accept?

Read Romans 8:31-39

10. Identify words or phrases from this passage revealing that God's love is effective, eliminating every last bit of condemnation. (see verses 31-34)
11. Identify words or phrases from this passage revealing that God's love is permanent, resisting anything that might try to separate you from it. (see verses 35-39)
12. How does God's effective and permanent love make you feel? How does his love give you confidence to trust him?

Read Ephesians 3:14-19

13. How can I learn to grasp the vast dimensions of God's love for me in Jesus?
14. How can I learn not to take it for granted, but to accept it as real and to live in it?

TAKEAWAY:

_____ is a child of God.

Pray this prayer: *"God, if you are real, make yourself real to me. Awaken in me the awareness that I am your unconditionally loved child. ."*