

AHA Session 1 Discussion Guide

Text: Luke 15:11-24

1. As you read Jesus' parable what assumptions do you make about this family (the Father and two sons) as the story begins?
2. As you watched the video presentation,
 - Which characters did you find yourself liking or rooting for?
 - Which characters do you find yourself disliking or feeling an aversion toward?
 - Which characters do you find yourself connecting to or identifying with personally?
3. Consider the various characters who were tempted. How do you find yourself internally replying in each situation?
 - How do you find yourself responding to the accountant who basically says, "Now that we both have signature power, we could set up a dummy company, submit false invoices, and reap the profits"?
 - How do you find yourself responding to the club owner who says, "You could make \$500 on a bad night and afford your dream of medical school"?
 - How do you find yourself responding to the woman whose internal tempter leads her to say, "I'm tired of being somebody's daughter, wife, mother. I want a life. I want to be free"?
4. We saw Anjela (waitress) deciding to try "dancing" without seeking advice from anyone else. We saw Tim (executive) deciding to embezzle funds after discussing it with one like-minded colleague. We saw Claire deciding to leave Walter after airing out her grievances with a sympathetic friend. Is this stretching it or is it a very real and prevalent practice? What do we learn about human nature from this? How can we overcome it?
5. The phrase, "leave the father" was used. What do you think it means to leave the father? If the Father is indeed loving and kind, why would someone choose to leave? What might some of the reasons have been in the son's mind?
6. Kyle suggested that things always fall apart when one leaves the Father for the far country.
 - Have you found that to be true in the lives of those you know?
 - Have you found that to be true in your own life? How so? (Jn. 10:10)
7. Should some folks in our group have an AHA experience, how safe would you say our group is for the AHA to be shared openly, even if it is messy or raw? Let's use a 0-10 scale again, with 0 being not safe at all and 10 being totally safe.

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