

## AHA Session 3 Discussion Guide

**Text:** Luke 15:11-24

1. How do you feel after this episode? What is your reaction?
2. Quoting 2 Chronicles 36:15, it was suggested that God gives early warnings. Is this your experience? Do you find him "rising up early" to sound the alert in your life?
3. How loud does the alarm typically need to become for you to wake up and take notice?
4. As you get older, do you find yourself responding to alarms more quickly or more slowly?
5. Two categories of Awakening were described:
  - Painful recognition, in which an individual comes face to face with the destruction he or she has caused
  - Startling realization, in which a person's eyes are opened to an insight that changes how he sees himself, life, or GodWhat do you think of this distinction? Does it fit in your life experiences?
6. It was said that Awakening can be quickly derailed by denial. Three forms of denial were discussed:
  1. simple denial, in which one simply ignores the problem
  2. minimization, in which one plays down the problem
  3. projection, in which one projects the problem and the blame on to someone elseDo you find any one of these forms of denial more common in you than another?
7. Each of the three main characters recalled a warm, loving time in his or her past. Claire remembered Amber "catching" a fish; Tim recalled a spaghetti dinner with Emily; Anjela relived falling off her bike and Papi bandaging the scrape and singing to her. What was it like for you watching those scenes?
8. Let's imagine God being in the various zones of the matrix. As you think about him occupying each zone, how would that affect your eagerness to face the alarms in your life?
9. We'll end by reading the prodigal parable (Luke 15:11-24) aloud again, (this time in the ESV) printed on the back of this page.
10. What is YOUR main take away from this lesson.

## The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Luke 15:11-24

**11**And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. **12**And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. **13**Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. **14**And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. **15**So he went and hired himself out to<sup>b</sup> one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16**And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. **17**"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! **18**I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. **19**I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" **20**And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. **21**And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'<sup>c</sup> **22**But the father said to his servants,<sup>d</sup> 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. **23**And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. **24**For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.