

AHA Session 6 Discussion Guide

Text: Luke 15:11-24

1. How do you feel after this episode? What is your reaction?
2. In our readings of the prodigal parable, we have intentionally left out the part about the older brother. Let's turn to Luke 15:25-32 and have someone read that now.

*We can be lost in the far country, and we can be lost at home.
What is your reaction to the idea that it is possible to be lost in both places?*

3. In the episode, Anjela sat down at the lunch counter after returning home. Carmen walked up to take her order. Would two of you volunteer to read each part from the dialogue that follows

CARMEN: May I take your order please?

ANJELA: Carmen, can we just talk? I know you're angry.

CARMEN: Yeah, you're very sensitive to other people's feelings.

ANJELA: I'm just trying to say I'm sorry.

CARMEN: Like they told you to do in rehab? Which of the twelve steps is making amends? You'll have to tell me because I've never been to rehab, because I've never been addicted, because I was too busy staying home, doing my job, looking after Dad. But hey! You said sorry, so I guess I have to stop being mad now.

- What's your reaction to Carmen's speech?
- Which zone would you say Carmen was in?
- Which zone would you say Anjela was in as she tried to apologize?

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- What's your reaction to Carmen's speech?
- Which zone would you say Carmen was in?
- Which zone would you say Anjela was in as she tried to apologize?

4. Two signs that a person is lost at home were put forward, the first being a resistance to celebrating another person's return home. Do you notice any signs of this tendency in yourself?

A second sign of being lost at home is a confidence in one's own goodness more than the grace of God. Do you sense any tendency toward reliance on your own goodness and progress?

5. What was the effect of Anjela's surprise party on you? How did you feel? What did you think?

6. Kyle concluded, "This story in Luke 15 is not about the brothers. It's not really a story about the prodigal son. It's about a father who relentlessly and recklessly loves all his children." How has their story affected your view of God the Father?

7. The basic instruction of this study is to go back to the Father. What would you say to the person who replies, "I've gone back to the Father a thousand times. When I get home, I just can't stay there. I just can't live up to it. I keep wandering away. Am I hopeless?"

8. The story of the prodigal is not the whole story of life with God. The parable tells one part of the journey, the journey home. But it doesn't necessarily tell us how to stay home. Or does it? Does the story help us in how to stay home?

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