

# Week 1: Welcome Home!

## FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

- The “Big Idea” is a tool or compass to help you guide your group to the heart of this week’s message and remain on topic during discussion.
- The weekly check-in question allows your group to follow up on the previous week’s application discussion/challenge.
- Questions in the “Discuss” section and the “Apply” section have been designed with an emphasis on applying the Scripture passage and the message. You do not need to cover all the questions – choose at least one question from each section, and if time runs out, jump straight to the Apply section.
- Prayer practices are designed to be customized and tweaked according to the dynamics of your group. Ask God to give you wisdom and guidance to discern what will work for your group.

<b>BIG IDEA</b>	God’s favourites are all know-it-all prodigals, runaway sheep, used-up whores and cunning thieves and liars - people just like you and me. No matter who you are, or what your story might be, <b>you can always come home.</b>
<b>CHECK-IN</b>	How have you been able to experience God in the last month, through the Christmas series?
<b>DISCUSS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Each member was asked to bring a picture that represents a meaningful part of their story. Share why this picture means something to you.</li><li>2. In what areas of your life do you feel kind of stuck? Stuck in the past? Stuck in pain? Stuck in bad habits? Pair up and share with that one person.</li><li>3. Has there ever been a time when you felt “far away from home”? What were the circumstances? What was it that drew you back from home?</li><li>4. Read <b>Luke 15:11 - 32</b>. Why was the father’s response so countercultural for that time? What does this say about the nature of God?</li></ol>

## APPLY

Pastor Brian listed four applications to the Prodigal Son parable:

- 1. God loves you when you make unwise choices.**
- 2. God loves you when you fail, even in the middle of your mess.**
- 3. God loves while He waits for you to come home.**
- 4. God loves you not because you're good, but because He's just no ordinary Father.**

- a) Which of the four applications ring most true to you, and why?
- b) In your quiet time with God this week, meditate or reflect on these application statements. Consider writing a journal entry about how it impacts your mood, your attitude, or even your choices. Make it a point to share what you experience with your group (during the week or at a future group meeting).

## PRAYER PRACTICE

Pray simple prayers this week. Whether in your car, on transit, walking...nothing fancy or long-winded. Pray for an open heart. Pray for your group members by name. Invite God into everything.