Operation(†180

Lesson 1.1

"When he finally came to his senses."

Step 1: We admitted we were powerless over our compulsive, self-destructive behaviors, and our lives had become unmanageable.

"When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, 'At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant." Luke 15:17–19 (NLT)

<u>Truth #1: Sin separates us from our true selves in Christ.</u> The phrase "When he finally came to his senses" actually reads "When he finally came to himself" in Greek. When we are living in sin, we are broken and not whole. We use sayings like "my heart is broken," "my spirit is shattered," and "my life is in pieces" to describe despair. Only God can make us fully whole.

<u>Question #1:</u> Are you ready to finally come to your senses and be made whole? What is broken or shattered in your life that this group can pray to be healed by God?

<u>Truth #2: The beginning of repentance is turning and coming home to</u> <u>God.</u> The Prodigal Son thinks home to his father's house and knows that everyone, even the servants, is being taken care of while he is starving in his sin. This knowledge is an act of grace through the Holy Spirit and can result in our turning to God if we obey as the Prodigal Son eventually does in this parable.

<u>Question #2:</u> Are you ready to come home to God? What is preventing you from actually turning toward God right now?

<u>Truth #3: The Prodigal Son experiences his "rock bottom" when he</u> <u>realizes in the same moment that he is sinning against **both** God and his</u> <u>family.</u> In a single instant of grace, the Prodigal realizes at the deepest level that his compulsive and self-destructive behaviors are sins against God and his family, and his life was unmanageable, and it was time to return home.

<u>Question #3:</u> Have you personally experienced this moment of insight? If not, why not?

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