

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

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’ “But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.” (Luke 15:20–24, NLT)

Truth #1: God is awaiting your return. We see that the father has been waiting for his lost son the whole time the son was in his distant land. The father sees his child coming home when “he was still a long way off.” As we will see in Step 2, God’s unfailing covenant love means that he is always ready to receive back his wayward children.

Question #1: What is preventing you from coming home to Jesus? Jesus says *“Come to me (Matt 11:28),”* – are you ready to come to Him?

Truth #2: There is no shame when we repent. The son returns home and repents by saying, *“Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.”* But filled with love and compassion, the father welcomes him home and embraces, kisses, and forgives his wayward son, and restores his place in the family. There is no shame or punishment from the father towards his repentant son. In fact, Jesus tells us that *“So the party began!”*

Question #2: Is a fear of shame or punishment preventing you from turning and repenting like the wayward son? Can this group pray for anything to help you repent like the wayward son?

Next lesson: Step 2 and Hope.

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