

“The Way Home” – Pastor DeMarcus Hill”

Winter Circle Groups | Week #5

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week's group discussion focusses on the message titled "The Way Home." Did you know that you always have a home with Jesus no matter what you've done in the past? We are no longer restricted by our past lives and decisions. In our self-gratification society where pleasures are all but temporary, we have a heavenly Father who wants us to find refuge in his arms of love! Let's take a deep dive into our journeys of faith, understand the resources we have as sons and daughters of Christ and find our way back home!

KEY SCRIPTURES

Luke 15:11-32

Additional Scriptures: Psalm 103:11-14, Lam. 3:18-23, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Matthew 16:24-26

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- According to this story, there are two sons – the prodigal and the faithful son. Both had an incorrect perspective on their position in their father's family. For one, a lack of identity caused him shame about his past decisions. For the other, pride and entitlement prevented him from realizing the access he had to his father's riches all along. **Read Luke 15: 11-32. Do you identify with the prodigal son (living for temporary pleasures) or the faithful son (proving his loyalty to the father through works) and how so?**
- Whether we are faithfully consistent or have a prodigal son experience, we have an inheritance and we belong in God's family. Our Heavenly Father is more concerned with our heart posture and obedience rather than our perfections. **Read Psalm 103:11-14 & Lam. 3:18-23. How does God's response to sin contradict the way we typically view our past mistakes and failures? How do these scriptures encourage you to continue moving forward despite life's setbacks?**
- Having the correct posture allows us to shed the shadow of our past and embrace the lifestyle of a son. We are the ones who remember our sins, not our heavenly father. Instead of getting stuck in the past, we have a choice to allow our struggles to determine our future or propel us into deeper purpose. Have you allowed yourself to get stuck in the past and live below your God-given identity? **Are you living below your God-given identity? Have you tried to live a life of disobedience masked under the label of "independence?" How is this week's discussion challenging you?**

- To return home and live in the fullness of sonship, we must take personal responsibility. This is called "carrying our cross." **What cross have you been asked to bear? Have you embraced the discipline required to lift it or have you set it down to entertain an old lifestyle?**

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

As children of God, we are called to live lives of purpose rather than bondage from our past. Just like the prodigal son, we can live for temporary pleasures and fleeting joy, or humble our pride and restore our relationship with our father. We have unlimited access to the benefits of heaven and have a heavenly father waiting with arms stretched wide. The way home is not easy. It requires sacrifice, humility, and obedience. But oh, the joy! Embracing a disciplined lifestyle gives us a path back to our identity & helps us find our way home!

Challenge: Take the step to repent and return home once again. Let's allow God access into all areas of our lives by praying this prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father,

I admit that I have allowed temporary pleasures to distract me from spiritual disciplines. Instead of (insert spiritual discipline you would like to grow in), I have been living for the moment and (insert unhealthy behavior). Today, I choose again to come back to you and allow you full access to every part of my life. You say that if I humble myself and pray, seek Your face and turn from my wicked ways, that you would hear and heal me (2 Chronicles 7:14). I choose to turn once again to you, take up my cross and follow you (Matthew 16:24-26). Grant me the strength to run to you during times of trouble rather than temporary comfort. I take my place as your heir and co-heir with Christ and choose to live from a place of identity rather than lack. Thank you for your faithfulness and for forgiving my sins. In Jesus Name, Amen!