

YOU

BELONG

Week 3

The son said... "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you..." Luke 15:21

WELCOME

- ◆ Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTION

- ◆ Why do you think it is so hard to accept responsibility for our own behavior? What are some things people do to shift the focus or pass the buck?

DISCUSSION

1. Last week we looked at the story of the lost son, and the fact that really both sons were lost. We looked at the lack of repentance in the older son's heart. This week we are looking at the story again, but this time our focus will be on the response of the younger son. **Read [Luke 15:14-17](#)**. What did it take for the younger son to "come to his senses?"
2. **Read [Luke 15:18-19](#)**. What did this son do about his enlightened state of mind?
3. Talk about a time in your life when you "came to your senses," when you were able to connect the dots between your own poor choices and their ramifications. What did it take to get you to this point? What did you do about it?
4. **Read [Luke 15:21](#)**. How many times does the younger son use the word, "I?" What does this say to you about true repentance?
5. Share about a time when you blamed someone else for your own behavior. Was it worth it? What were the results?
6. **Read [Psalm 51:1-4](#)**. Talk about the horizontal and vertical part of repentance. Why would it be important to acknowledge both?
7. Look back at **[Luke 15:19](#)** again. Sin breaks relationship with God and with the people we sin against. We can't very well "belong" if our relationships are broken. The son was sorry, and he said so. What else might be involved in true repentance of our horizontal relationships?
8. Is there someone that you currently need to make amends with? What steps could you take this week to make that happen?
9. Is there something you need to get right with God about? When will you set aside time to do this?
10. **Read [Luke 15:20-24](#)**. What was the response of the father to his son's desire to pay him back? How does this response compare to the way our Heavenly Father responds to our repentance?
11. How do you think the story might have differed if the older brother had sought out the younger brother to try to share his father's love with him? What difference could this have made in both the brothers' lives?
12. Have you wasted years by not sharing the love of the Father with someone in your life? How could you communicate God's love to that person this week?
13. How have you experienced a sense of belonging with people and/or with God, as a result of repenting?

PRAYER

- ◆ Ask your community group to pray that God would help you not waste years, refusing to repent of your own sin and refusing to share the love and mercy of our Father with those who are living in sin themselves.