



STORYTELLERS

Week 6

BREAKING THE ICE

What is one of your favorite or most memorable gifts that you have received?

Do you typically like to give or receive gifts? Why do you think that is?

MAIN CONTENT

1. Tell a funny story about a time when you got in trouble when you were younger?

2. How do you first respond when you mess up? Are you angry, embarrassed, sad, discouraged, etc?

In the message on Sunday, James talked about how Jesus told the story of the lost son while hanging out with the “mess-ups.”

3. Why is this encouraging that Jesus intentionally chose to share THIS story with this crowd?

Read Luke 15:11-24 together

4. When you mess up and go to someone to ask for forgiveness, what are some fears that run through your head?

In the parable of the lost son, the father welcomes the son home with open arms – puts sandals on his feet, his robe on him, a ring on his finger and kills the fatten calf to throw him a party to celebrate his return.

5. What is most surprising to you about the father’s reaction to his son coming home? How does this encourage you about how God sees you when you ask for forgiveness?

6. What do you think about when you think about God? What kinds of things come to mind? Is he distant, disappointed, only concerned about disciplining you, etc?

James encouraged us to Admit, Believe and Act in the process of repentance, and that for all of us this is a daily thing that we do.

7. What is most difficult for you in the process of repentance? Admitting that you are wrong, believing that God forgives you or taking action to change your lifestyle?

While we may not be in the same situation of the lost son, we have all been lost before. Sometimes, we need to accept God's love and realize that He's not mad at us, and sometimes, we are so familiar with God's love that we forget how special it really is.

8. If you could imagine what the Father wants to tell you at this moment, what is something that God may want to restore in you to "come home" and accept God's love in an area of your life?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you so much that you always welcome us back home. Thank you that you always receive us, and we are always welcome back, no matter what. We come before you asking for forgiveness for the things we have done, and we ask for strength to turn away from actions that hurt you and hurt other people. We receive your forgiveness and choose to believe that you are a good Father that loves us. We thank you for who you are and what you have done. Would you make us more like you? Amen.

ACTION STEP

- + Take a few moments in prayer to silently confess in prayer as a group, and if you feel comfortable, take a moment and connect with another group member for confession later or share in the group.
- + On your own after group, read Luke 15:15-32 and reflect on the Father's reaction for both the older and younger son.
- + Consider becoming a group leader for the fall semester that starts in mid-August. Find out more at crosspoint.tv/groups
- + Listen to the Storytellers podcast which has two more weeks of episodes that release on Wednesdays. This week, hear a real-life lost son story from someone in the Cross Point community: crosspoint.tv/podcasts