**Homesick**

**Even Rebels Get Homesick- Week #1**

**Small Group Notes**

**September 12 and 15**

**Main Point:** Even though there are times when we run away, true children of God will always be homesick while away from the Father!

**Introduction:** What does the phrase, “there’s no place like home…” mean to you? When has there been a time that you were homesick? Maybe as a child when you “went away” for the first time, or as an adult on a business trip, or a soldier on deployment. What can be the affects emotionally or physically? What about those that that we leave, how are they impacted? What are some things that help us while we are away?

In today’s group we are going to talk about a time that a brother, though he went away, experienced homesickness, and yet it speaks to both the believers and the unbeliever about the grace of God and the power of His forgiveness.

**Discuss:**

1. Read Luke 15:11-12.

What are some characteristics that you see that would describe the younger brother? Is there an example that you see of the younger brother today in our culture?

2. Read Luke 15:13-14

Has there ever been a time in your life when you got something and totally wasted it? As a parent, has there been a time when you saw a child waste something you had gotten them?

How did it make you feel to see someone not appreciate the gift that you gave them? What are ways that we are seeing our culture squandering the blessings of God?

3. Read Luke 15:15-16.

Considering that this younger brother more than likely had a Jewish background, that viewed pigs as unclean; how was this humiliating to him?

When has there been a time in your life that the Lord had to humble you?

4. Read Luke 15:17-20.

Spend time in reflection about your fellowship with the Lord. Are you asking the Lord to give you things or to make you into things?

What is one thing that you can do this week to allow the Lord to transform you more into His image? What is something that needs to be removed from your life that is hindering this in you?

**Dig Deeper:**

Key points from today’s sermon.

1. Rebels are homesick at home.

Engage the Word: have a volunteer to read the passage.

***Luke 15:11-12 (NIV):*** *Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.****12****The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.*

Pastor Brady emphasized in the sermon how…

* Home isn’t a place; home is a person.
* God loves us enough to let us leave.

When has there been a time in your life that you felt like leaving the Lord?

What were some things that drew you back? What did God teach you during this time?

Transition: Not only do we see how rebellious we can be in our actions, but also our perspective needs to change.

2. Rebels choose the gifts over the giver.

Engage the Word: have a volunteer to read the passage.

***Luke 15:13-14:******13****“Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.”*

In the sermon Pastor Brady said…

* Rebels believe “the things of my father will satisfy me.”
* God’s greatest gift is His presence.

Why do we so often run to the things that we ask of God, instead of seeking God’s presence?

In light of these points, how does understanding God’s presence relate to growing our faith? Why is it critical for us to not base our faith on feelings?

3. Rebels always misunderstand authority and eventually get hungry and homesick.

Engage the Word: have a volunteer to read the passage.

***Luke 15:15-16****, “So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.”*

Pastor Brady mentioned in the sermon how…

“Maximum freedom comes when we submit to authority.”

When has there been a time that the Lord showed you what it meant to live under His authority? How was it freeing to you? How is rebellion more enslaving than freeing in our lives?

In the sermon Brady mentioned how…

* God sends famine
* God sends famines to get our attention
* Something you trusted in gets shaken
* Turning to God is the only option that makes sense.

Share how you have seen this path in your own personal life.

4. The rebel’s road home begins with a switch from “give me” to “make me”.

Engage the Word: have a volunteer to read this passage.

**Luke 15:17-20 (NIV)**

*“When he* ***CAME TO HIS SENSES****, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son, make me like one of your hired servants. So he got up and went to His father.”*

Look back in verse 12 and see how the younger brother said, “Give me.” Then see in verse 19, he makes the statement, “make me.”

Pastor Brady states…

* The core of rebellion = “give me”
* The core of brokenness = “make me”

Our mission at New Vision is to guide people to lives of gospel transformation. Being in a group encourages you to grow spiritually, which is how the Lord transforms and makes you into being more like Christ.