



## Find Your Way Back I Part 1

### Bill Bush | 04.18.2020

#### Big Idea

Any time we long for more, we are longing for God.

#### Luke 15:11-24

<sup>11</sup> To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons.

<sup>12</sup> The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

<sup>13</sup> “A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living.

<sup>14</sup> About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve.

<sup>15</sup> He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs.

<sup>16</sup> The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger!

<sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you,

<sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”

<sup>20</sup> “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.

<sup>21</sup> 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.’

<sup>22</sup> “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.

<sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast,

<sup>24</sup> 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.

#### Three longings that help us find our way back to God:

1. Love

2. Purpose
3. Meaning

### 1 John 4:10

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

### Jeremiah 1:5

“I knew you before I formed you in your mother’s womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations.”

### Ephesians 2:10

For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

### Ecclesiastes 3:11

Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.

### Response

- If you are seeking God, pray this prayer... “God, if you are real, make yourself real to me.”
- If you have a relationship with God, make this your prayer... “God, I know you are real. Please make yourself real to people in my life who need to find their way back.”