

Session 2: Who Am I Now?

2 Corinthians 5:17: This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life has gone; a new life has begun!

Objective: To realise that deep down inside we are now a completely new creation in Jesus.

Focus Truth: Your decision to follow Jesus was the defining moment of your life and led to a complete change in who you are.

Review last session:

1. Look at the list from the last session together. Which of these had particular significance to you? What did God say to you as you prayed through the list?
2. How did you get on learning the Creation to Return story? Who did you tell it to? What did they think? Is there anything of more significance to you than it has been before? If this story is true, how does it affect your ongoing relationship with Jesus?

Prodigal Son

Based on NLT

Introduction (Luke 15:1-2)

Corrupt tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the...teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! *So Jesus told them stories to explain why he did what he did...*

Luke 15:11-12

To illustrate the point...Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. 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.

Luke 15:13-16

“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. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the *food* he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

Luke 15:17-19

“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! I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both *God* and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant."

Luke 15:20-24

"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. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both *God* and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'

"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. *Let me show him that I am accepting him fully back as my son!* And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, *because it was like* this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. *It was like* he was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

Luke 15:25-30

"Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, and he asked one of the servants what was going on. 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.' The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, but he replied, 'All these years I've slaved for you and never once refused to do a single thing you told me to. And in all that time you never gave me even one young goat for a feast with my friends. Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'

Luke 15:31-32

"His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. We had to celebrate this happy day, *because it was like* your brother was dead and has come back to life! *It was like* he was lost, but now he is found!'

Use one of the ideas for internalizing a story...

Questions for Discussion:

1. *What did you like about this story?*
2. *What bothered you about this story?*
3. *What does this story show you about God?*
 - a. *Imagine that you are the father, and your son has just refused your gifts. How do you feel?*
4. *What does this story show you about people?*
 - a. *Imagine that you are the wayward son, and that you have come home. Your father has offered you more than you imagined. What are you*

feeling? If it were you, how do you think you would have responded to the father, and why? What would have made you say “No, I just want to be your servant”? How would life be different if the son had just been a servant in his father’s house?

b. What is the difference between being a servant and being a daughter?

5. How do the truths in this story apply to your life?

a. How are you like the younger son? How does his response to his father (accepting the offer of son ship) compare with your response to God? How are you like the older son? What is the father inviting the older son to do? What does life look like for the older brother if he doesn’t accept the younger brother?

*b. We have been forgiven by God, but we have also been given new life for the here and now. If we don’t believe that, we will simply continue to live as slaves rather than as daughters. **Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Ephesians 5:8, Colossians 1:13-14.** “You are not saved by how you behave, but by how you believe.” If this is true, what needs to change in your life?*

c. Even though we have been “saved,” we still sin. When we do something wrong, what is the appropriate way to react? (In this story, how did the son react when he realised what he had done?)

*d. If we feel really condemned, how do these passages help us? **Read Romans 8:1-2, Hebrews 10:16-23, 1 John 1:8-2:2***

To Take Away

1. Read the “My Father God” list out loud every day. Then pick out a truth that is particularly significant to you and spend some time reading it in its context and asking God to speak to you.

2. Learn the Prodigal Son story and practice it with at least one other person. Tell this story to yourself or read it every day and meditate on its truths. Put yourself in the son’s place and ask God to show you how he feels about you as you come home to him.

MY FATHER GOD

**I renounce the lie that my
Father God is:**

Distant and uninterested in me

Insensitive and uncaring

stern and demanding

passive and cold

absent or too busy for me

Impatient, angry or never
satisfied with what I do

mean, cruel, or abusive

trying to take all the fun out of
life

controlling or manipulative

condemning or unforgiving

nit-picking or a demanding
perfectionist

**I joyfully accept the truth that
my Father God is:**

intimate and involved (Psalm 139:1-18)

kind and compassionate (Psalm
103:8-14)

accepting and filled with joy and
love (Romans 15:7, Zephaniah 3:17)

warm and affectionate (Isaiah
40:11; Hosea 11:3,4)

always with me and eager to be
with me (Hebrews 13:5;
Jeremiah 31:20; Ezekiel 34:11-16)

patient and slow to anger and
delights in those who put their hope in
His unfailing love (Exodus 34:6; 2 Peter
3:9; Psalm 147:11)

loving and gentle and protective
(Jeremiah 31:3; Isaiah 42:3; Psalm 18:2)

trustworthy and wants to give me
a full life; His will is good, perfect and
acceptable for me (Lamentations 3:22-
23; John 10:10; Romans 12:1-2)

full of grace and mercy, and gives me
freedom to fail (Hebrews 4:15, 16; Luke
15:11-16)

tender-hearted and forgiving; His heart
and arms are always open to me (Psalm
130:1-4; Luke 15:17-24)

committed to my growth and
proud of me as His growing child
(Romans 8:28, 29; Hebrews 12:5-11; 2
Corinthians 7:14)

I am the apple of His eye!