



5-Day Devotional

"RUNAWAY, Part 1: The Son Who Runs"

Luke 15:11-24

1

Day 1: Home in Our Hearts

Luke 15:11-24

As we step into this week, take a moment with the story of the son who runs. Jesus beautifully paints a picture of a father's heart—a heart willing to watch and wait, longing for connection with his son. The essence of this story isn't just about a wayward child; it's about understanding the lengths our Heavenly Father goes to show us His love. Think about this: Have you ever felt the urge to run away, emotionally or spiritually? It's easy to get caught up in the chaos of life, feeling distant or disconnected. That longing to escape like the younger son can come from disappointment, shame, or just wanting to breathe away from responsibilities. But remember, God is never angry at our returns; instead, He runs toward us, eager to embrace us and welcome us home. What does it feel like to be embraced by unconditional love?

REFLECTION

Where have you felt distant from God? What has driven that distance?

APPLICATION

Spend a few moments in quiet reflection today, asking God to reveal places in your heart where you've felt distant or where you've run away. Write down what comes to mind and sit with those feelings for a little while.

PRAYER

"Father, thank You for Your unwavering love and the longing You hold for each of us. Help us to identify where we've run away, and give us courage to turn back toward You. Amen."

2

Day 2: Facing the Distance

2 Corinthians 7:10

Let's dive deeper into the theme of sorrow and how it can either pull us away from God or draw us closer. In 2 Corinthians 7:10, Paul tells us about two types of sorrow: worldly sorrow that leads to death versus godly sorrow that leads to life. The younger son felt regret, something we all know well. But the beauty is in turning that regret into a desire

or draw us closer. In 2 Corinthians 7:10, Paul tells us about two types of sorrow: worldly sorrow that leads to death versus godly sorrow that leads to life. The younger son felt regret, something we all know well. But the beauty is in turning that regret into a desire to return home. This week, reflect on how godly sorrow is more than just feeling bad about the past. It's a heart shift that leads us to restoration. It's not about wallowing in guilt; it invites us to come back home, to not just feel shame but to understand that those feelings can drive us toward our Father rather than away from Him. Can we see regret as an opportunity for growth instead of a reason to hide?

REFLECTION

Think about a regret you carry that makes you feel unworthy. How can that emotion lead you to draw closer to God today?

APPLICATION

Take that regret, no matter how large or small, and write a simple prayer that expresses your desire to return to God, asking for clarity and healing through it.

PRAYER

"Lord, help me to transform my regrets into a reason to return to You. Show me how even my failures can lead me home to Your embrace. Amen."

3

Day 3: The Weight of Shame

Romans 8:1

Shame is a heavy burden, isn't it? It's exhausting to carry the weight of feeling like we've crossed a line we can't return from. The younger son in the story already imagines himself unworthy, rehearsing speeches of remorse—just as many of us have done. But here's the truth: Romans 8:1 tells us, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Finding freedom from shame is a crucial step in moving back toward home. It's about recognizing God's love that doesn't require us to clean up before we can come back. Can we allow ourselves to be vulnerable and honest with God about our struggles? How do we let go of that shame that tries to renounce our identity? The struggle is real, but the path to healing begins when we acknowledge where that shame has a grip on us.

REFLECTION

What specific lies about your worth have you believed? How do they hold you back from accepting God's love?

APPLICATION

Name a specific lie you've been believing about yourself. Write it down, then write the truth from scripture in response. Let it replace the lies in your heart.

PRAYER

"God, help me to see myself through Your eyes, free from shame and condemnation. Help me to believe that I am worthy of Your love, no matter my past. Amen."

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4

Day 4: Coming Home to Grace

1 John 3:1

As we look forward to the weekend, let's surround ourselves with the incredible truth of 1 John 3:1, which tells us, "See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!" This isn't just a status; it's an identity. Every time the father ran to meet his son, he was proclaiming, "You are still my child!" Grace changes everything. Have you thought about moments in your life where grace was freely given to you? Maybe a friend forgave you when you didn't deserve it, or someone lovingly welcomed you back after a mistake. Allow that love to inspire you to extend grace to yourself and others. This week, take some time to reflect on how you can be a conduit of that grace in the world around you. Let's be the kind of community that mirrors the love of the Father, welcoming back those who feel lost or distant.

REFLECTION

Who do you need to extend grace to in your life? How can you offer a 'homecoming' to someone today?

APPLICATION

Think of someone who might need kindness or grace from you. Reach out to them with a message, a call, or an act of friendship that echoes the heart of the Father.

PRAYER

"Father, help me to be an instrument of Your grace. Show me where I can offer love and acceptance, just as You have given me. Amen."

5

Day 5: Walking Into the Weekend—Turn Back Home

Luke 15:20-24

As we close out this week, let's remember the powerful truth of the proclamation from Luke 15. The father sees his son from a distance and runs to him. This is the picture of how God waits for us—He's not simply stationary. He's active in His pursuit of us. He doesn't need our perfect apologies or grand gestures to welcome us back; He desires our hearts, just as they are. This weekend, let's carry this message of homecoming into our lives. Let's be ambassadors of this grace, sharing this love with others who might feel like they're on the run. It's an opportunity to help someone find their way back home to God's love. Think of a way you can be part of someone's journey home, even in the simplest ways. Your small step might just be the welcome they need!

REFLECTION

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REFLECTION

How can you practically help someone know they're not too far gone?

APPLICATION

Identify one person who might be struggling with feeling distant from God or others. Reach out to them this weekend to affirm their worth and remind them of God's love.

PRAYER

"God, as I head into this weekend, help me to be a voice of encouragement and grace. Show me how to reach out to those who need to feel Your love and acceptance. Amen."