

Finding Your Way Back to God: Awakening to Love Pastor John Tiernan August 28, 2016

Life Group Discussion Questions:

- 1. Thinking back on this week's sermon or the entire series, was there a particular point or passage that challenged you, confused you, or caught your attention?
- 2. How do you introduce yourself to someone? If you were asked "who are you," how would you answer? Check out this interview of Olympic divers, David Boudia and Steele Johnson-who do they say they are? (http://www.nbcolympics.com/video/divers-johnson-and-boudia-rely-faith-put-minds-ease)
- 3. Read **Luke 15:20-24**. What was the father's reaction to his son's return? What did the son say to his father? What does this reveal about the difference between who the son thinks he is and who the father knows him to be?
- 4. Finding our identity:
 - a. Read Jeremiah 31:3. What does the Lord say to the Israelites, his wayward nation? What does this mean for us if He is the same God yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)?
 - b. Read **1 John 13:1**. We are loved so much that we are His kids. Read **Galatians 4:4-7**. Think: when you mess up, how can this verse encourage you?
 - c. Read **Matthew 6:25-34** remembering that you are a child of God. How are you living with worry and how do these verses put that worry into perspective?
 - d. Read **Psalm 63:1-3**. Where would you rate your soul on the thirsty scale? To what things do you turn for satisfaction, contentment, peace joy, etc? Consider John's statement in your own life, "treating a good thing like the Real Thing is idolatry."

Prayer & Next Steps:

Spend some time together in quiet, written reflection and group prayer. John challenged us to confront the lies in our life with truth statements. Ask God, "which lies am I believing about my identity?" and write those down. Then write out John's truth statements and use these pray for yourself and others in your life. Finally, discuss as a group how you can take steps to making that truth live in your heart (memorizing affirming Scripture, writing the truth every day, finishing the 24 day challenge, etc.).

Truths: I am loved unconditionally. I am accepted. I am secure. I am fulfilled.

(Leader, consider doing a google search for "I am in Christ" and look at the images people have created to remind themselves of their real identity. Share one or two with your group.)