



FINDING YOUR WAY BACK TO GOD

Awakening to Longing: there's got to be more

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Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. BIG IDEA : Our deepest longings are given to us by God and intended to lead us back to Him.
(a) longing for love (b) longing for purpose (c) longing for meaning.
2. Read **Luke 15: 11-32**. Jesus told this story about a father and his two sons. (The father represents God, the younger son represents sinners, and the older son represents religious people.) Since the younger son apparently had a quite satisfying life, why do you think he made a decision based on, "there's got to be more?"
3. Each of us was created by God with a deep need to have a relationship with God. Seeking to fulfill our deepest longings without regard for God was described in the sermon as "practical atheism" – saying we believe there is a God, but living like God's not there.
 - In what ways might our own lives reflect practical atheism?
 - Since the Bible is a life textbook that reveals God's insights about how we are meant to live, how might our attitude toward the Bible reflect practical atheism?
4. We make three devastating decisions trying to satisfy our longings apart from God. They lead only to emptiness and brokenness. Discuss the following decisions.
 - We live like God is dead (verse 12)
 - We trade long-term fulfillment for short-term thrills (verse 13)
 - We sell our soul for things that will not satisfy (verses 14-16)
5. When we break our attachment with God, we always end up attached to something else. Which of the following attachments do you see in your own life?
 - Feeding your own ego
 - Feeding your greed
 - Feeding your addiction
 - Feeding your need to be perfect.
6. Whatever it is you are most attached to, it will never satisfy, it will leave your soul empty. Where will you go to satisfy your God-given longings?

Application: Take the 24-day challenge. For the next 24 days, seek after God as if He is real and as if you believe in Him.

Prayer: "God, if you are real, make yourself real to me. Awaken in me the ability to see that **you** are what is missing from my life."

Verse to Remember: Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. **Matthew 7:7**