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## WARM UP

What is one possession that you've misplaced and were never able to find again? What would you do if you found it?

## WORD

Read [Luke 15:11-24](#)

Jesus tells the story of a son who took his inheritance and squandered it, only to enter into a time of famine. We, too, can find ourselves like this son, thinking that the sense of completion can only come from things God gives us. However, true satisfaction comes from the God who gives, not necessarily *what* He gives.

## NOTES

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## 1 Reckless Living

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*<sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.*

[Luke 15:12-13](#) (ESV)

Reckless living is when life recklessly puts us in a position to seek fulfilment by means other than God. Consequently, when we recklessly fill the void of satisfaction, we are left wasting our lives on things that will always leave us wanting. This is what Jesus meant when He described the younger son going into a far country - the more we seek satisfaction in things, the greater the distance between us and God.

- Do you feel like you are stewarding your life well? Why or why not?

## 2 Junk Food

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*<sup>14</sup>And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup>And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!*

[Luke 15:14-17](#) (ESV)

Squandering has its limits, so as resources end, we have to continually find other means to maintain the pursuit of fulfilment. Addictions may surface, habits form, and we become slaves to the ways of the "far off country" that our spirits have migrated to. But God reveals our situation of slavery and disgust, and reminds us of just how good we have it when we accept the grace of the Father who calls His sons and daughters back home.

- Have you known what it is like to be in a situation where it seemed you had nothing? How did you respond? What happened next?

## 3 Reckless Love

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*<sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.*

[Luke 15:22-24](#) (ESV)

- Have you found your way "home" to God, like this youngest son did? Why or why not?
- Share a time when you felt God's compassion and love for you, even though you may have felt you were a long way off from Him.

### PRAYER

- Pray for the revelation of just how much God loves you. Try praying and meditating on John 3:16-17.
- If you are not yet a follower of Christ, would you like to receive Christ as your Lord, who forgave you and cleansed you of your sins, and laid His life down for you, that you might follow Him?
- Pray for those who have not yet experienced the love of the Father. Pray for them by name.