

# For the Day after You Leave Treatment

## Going Home

### See Luke 15:11-32

For this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life.  
He was lost, but now he is found. *Luke 15:24*

You may have returned to the place you lived before entering treatment. Perhaps you have transitioned into a sober living environment. Maybe you have found a new place to live, with family, a friend, or on your own.

Wherever you are living right now, it is home. You have come home. Coming home is yet another one of those experiences that can carry with it a wide range of emotions, often emotions that are contrary to each other. You are excited and fearful. You are optimistic but worried.

Jesus tells a story about someone who goes home. It is worth reading (*printed on the next page*). It's sometimes called the story of The Prodigal Son, and sometimes it is called The Lost Son. Yes, this son was lost. Yes, he messed up in big ways. Yes, he believes he no longer deserves the love of those who had been closest to him.

But, he owned his mistakes. He stopped blaming others. He went home. In doing so, he becomes the person that finds his true self. He discovers he is loved by his father (which in this story represents the love of God!).

This is not just a story about someone in the Bible. This is your story. You are moving from being lost, to being found as you find yourself at home!

### Today I pray:

Bless me in my home. May it be a place where I find myself experiencing Your love. Amen.



## Luke 15:11-32 New Living Translation (NLT)

<sup>11</sup> To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: "A man had two sons.

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> "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. <sup>14</sup> About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve.

<sup>15</sup> He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> "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! <sup>18</sup> I will go home to my father and say, "Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, <sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.'"

<sup>20</sup> "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. <sup>21</sup> His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.'<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> "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. <sup>23</sup> And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.

<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the fields working. When he returned home, he heard music and dancing in the house, <sup>26</sup> and he asked one of the servants what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother is back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf. We are celebrating because of his safe return.'

<sup>28</sup> "The older brother was angry and wouldn't go in. His father came out and begged him, <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> Yet when this son of yours comes back after squandering your money on prostitutes, you celebrate by killing the fattened calf!'

<sup>31</sup> "His father said to him, 'Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!'"

