

## Introduction

**Read: Luke 15:11-24**

1. Everyone makes mistakes! No one is perfect.
2. However, it can be hard to admit that we make mistakes.
3. We can benefit from our mistakes only if we choose to learn from them. Genuinely being sorry starts with admitting our mistakes, and being humble enough to change our ways.
4. Moreover, like the younger son's father, God doesn't want us to just recognise our mistakes, but to also accept us back and redeem us completely!
5. God can restore our purpose, lost time and relationships, but we need to take action as well to change our behaviour.
6. In this lesson, we want to discuss the ways we can take action to start changing, so we don't make our old mistakes!

### I. Acknowledge God's Plan

**A. At his lowest point, the younger son realised that his father's plan for his life was the best (v17).**

**B. We may not like it at times, but to change is to acknowledge God's plan for our lives is the best!**

*"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts."*

- Isaiah 55:8-9

**C. Speak His promises over our lives regularly, to remind ourselves that God is faithful.**

*E.g. Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 16:5, Matthew 6:33, etc.*

**D. Take time each day to listen to the Holy Spirit and obey what He instructs us to do.**

*God wants to guide us in every area of our lives, if we will listen!*

#### **Discuss!**

Connect Group Leader to facilitate sharing with the Connect Group members.

- *What are some areas of our lives that we can ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in?*
- *Share an example of God guiding you in your life!*

## **II. Go Back To The Start**

- A. The younger son returned back to where he had been before he started to make his mistake of running away from his father (v20).**
- B. When we make mistakes, identify the last instruction from God which we disobeyed. Go back and obey it!**
- C. Remind ourselves of the promises God spoke over our lives previously.**  
*E.g. From church camp, services, or in our own personal devotions.*
- D. Focus on the foundations of reading God's word and praying every day (Revelation 2:4-5)!**  
*Realign our priorities so that we don't focus on things that lead us into the same old mistakes we used to make.*

## **III. Grab Every Opportunity To Serve**

- A. The father immediately restored to his son a robe, ring and sandals (v22). These were symbols of a son commissioned to carry out his father's work!**
- B. As we recognise that we are restored and belong to God, be open to participate when we are asked to serve in any way.**
- C. Ask God to give us wisdom and strength to serve Him well. The Holy Spirit enables us to serve God well!**
- D. Serve with thankfulness because God has given us the honour to be part of His plan!**

## **Conclusion**

1. God wants us to grow as we learn from our mistakes, and we need to take action to do so!
2. Our first step is to recognise where we first disobeyed God and turn back to Him.
3. As we realise what God has done for us, we then need to start to be faithful in the small things, and serve Him with a thankful heart!

### **Prayer Points:**

- Commit to taking action to learn from our mistakes.
- Ask God to help us obey Him completely.
- Ask God for opportunities to serve Him cheerfully!

*\*Give opportunities for visitors to receive Christ and members to re-dedicate their lives to Jesus.*