

## Small Group Guide

### Wayward — Resurrection: The Way Home

Summary: Let's reflect on the good news that no one is too far gone to come home. Jesus' death and resurrection make forgiveness and reconciliation possible. Use the Scripture passages below to guide your personal reflection and group conversation, then put faith into action by coming home and inviting others.

#### Discussion Questions:

- A. We Were Farther Gone Than We Realized (Ephesians 2:12–13)
- What does it mean that we were “farther gone” than we realized?
  - How does recognizing our distance from God change the way we respond to the gospel?
- B. Jesus Came All the Way and Paid What Kept Us Away (Luke 19:10; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:22)
- What do these passages show about why Jesus came?
  - How does Jesus' action shape the way we think about forgiveness and reconciliation?
- C. The Resurrection Secures Our Way Home (1 Corinthians 15:17)
- Why is the resurrection essential to our hope?
  - How would our lives be different if the resurrection were only a metaphor?
- D. Practical Faith — Come Home, Stop Living Like an Outsider (2 Corinthians 6:2; Galatians 4:4–7)
- What does “coming home” look like in your everyday life?
  - Are there ways you're living like an outsider even though you've come home? What steps would help you belong more fully?
- E. Invite Others Home (2 Corinthians 5:18–20)
- Who in your life needs to hear or experience that they can come home?
  - What are simple, realistic ways you can invite them this week?

#### Personal Reflection

- Spend a few minutes writing answers to one or two of these prompts:
  - Where do I need to be honest about my sin and trust Jesus for forgiveness?
  - What is one fear or habit that keeps me from living like I belong at home with God?
  - Who will I invite to hear this message or experience our church this week?

#### Commitments & Accountability

- Share one concrete step you will take this week (example: call someone, invite a friend to church, start a daily Scripture habit, confess to a trusted friend).
- Pair up for brief accountability and prayer during the week.

### Closing Prayer

- Let's pray for courage to come home, for the power of the resurrection to change hearts, and for opportunities to invite others. Pray for any personal needs shared.

### Memory verses this week:

- 2 Corinthians 6:2 — "Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation."
- 1 Corinthians 15:17 — "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile..."

### Weekly challenge (practical)

- Invite one person to coffee or to join you at church or a church event; tell them, "I'd like you to hear something that changed my life."
- Begin a simple daily practice this week (5–10 minutes) of reading Romans 5 or 1 Corinthians 15 and praying for one person who needs to come home.

### Prayer prompts (for personal or group use)

- Confession: Ask God to reveal anything that keeps you from fully coming home; confess and receive forgiveness.
- Thanksgiving: Thank Jesus for going all the way and for the resurrection.
- Intercession: Pray for people you'll invite and for your group to live as ambassadors of reconciliation.

### Closing encouragement:

No one is too far gone to come home. The story of Easter says God made a way for us to be reconciled—receive that grace, live like you belong, and invite others to come home with you.