

# FREEWAY

A NOT-SO-PERFECT GUIDE TO FREEDOM

Week 1: Welcome to the Party

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## Luke 15:11-32 (selected verses)

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

<sup>17</sup> "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

<sup>22</sup> "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son

of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

<sup>28</sup> "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

<sup>31</sup> "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

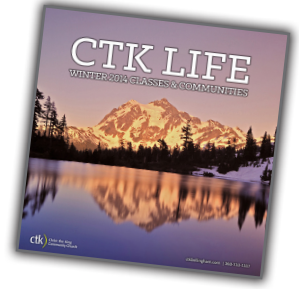
1. We are all lost.
2. There is going to be a party.
3. You are invited to the party.
4. The party is about God, not about us.

(Continues on back)

## Next Steps

### *On Your Own:*

1. Take the Spiritual Health Self-Assessment at: [ctkbellingham.com/spiritualhealth](http://ctkbellingham.com/spiritualhealth).
2. Ask God to help you face and deal with the areas in your life where you have run to some other solution instead of running to him.
3. Use the Next Steps document provided online or with the paper survey to learn some of the best options for your next step. You may want to pick an area in which you scored at the “crawl” stage to determine your next step. Pick up a copy of **CTK Life** to see full descriptions of all classes offered this winter.



### *With others:*

1. Share your results from the self-assessment with a friend and discuss next steps. If you are in a small group, share with your group.
2. If you have never completed **12 Steps**, come **this Monday, January 20 at 6:00 PM** to get registered. Session starts at 6:30 PM.
3. If you need a small group, come to CTK's **Small Group Connection Night, this Thursday, January 23 at 7:00 PM**.

## Small Group Questions:

1. Do you remember a time when you were really lost? Share the story.
2. How does it make you feel to hear that you are “lost” spiritually? Why do you think that term is so offensive?
3. Read Luke 15:11-32. Which “lost” brother do you relate to more – the older or younger one? Why?
4. In the story, the father goes to both the younger and older son. What does this say about the character of God?
5. Do you feel that you have you been invited to God’s party?
6. How can we pray for you right now and this week?

**OUR MISSION** | To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.