



## Part 3: The Road to Restoration

Pastors Grant Fishbook &  
Dave Browning

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During that long period, the king of Egypt died. The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them.

– Exodus 2:24-25

**In their deep pain, God: Heard**

**Remembered**

**Saw**

**Was Concerned**

**Last week: A moment of complete surrender – throw it down.**

**This week: A moment of restoration**

Then the LORD said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

“Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh. – Exodus 4:6-7

**God has a heart for relationship, surrender and restoration**

### **A New Testament Story of Restoration**

<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.’” – Luke 15:20-32

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## The Heart of the Father in Exodus

...This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son, and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me..." – *Exodus 4:22-23*

### Next Steps

**Communion Room:** Communion is a great picture of restoration and spending a quiet moment with the Father. If you'd like to receive Communion today, head upstairs after the service to Room 214.

**12 Step Spiritual Journey:** If you have strained or broken relationships that you long to restore, do not miss this final opportunity to join our winter session of 12 Steps. You'll learn how to surrender any situation to God and work through the healing process with his help. Head to the Connection Point after today's service to register. Meets Monday nights from 6:30-8:00 PM. Details in *What's Happening*.

### Small Group Questions



1. What is your plan for Super Bowl Sunday? Do you like the game or the commercials better?
2. Have you ever participated in a restoration project? (for example, a car, furniture, antique, remodel, relationship?) What did you learn about restoration through that project?
3. What has God restored in your life? How did he go about the process of restoration?
4. Do you identify with anyone in the story of the Prodigal Son? Are you the rebel? Are you the big brother? The Father? How has that impacted your life?
5. Are you holding unforgiveness in your heart toward someone? What would it take for God to restore that relationship?
6. How can we pray for you tonight?