

# Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

## Vision Sunday: Closer/Further - Part 3

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### Introduction

Throughout the Scriptures we see countless examples of broken people who, at a point where they draw closer to God, quickly recognise their own unworthiness and their personal propensity to sin. It is at this point that each of us needs to accept the amazing grace that God unconditionally offers, in order for us to draw closer to God and thus go further with Him. The risk at this pivotal point of decision and revelation is that we may resist God's offer and remain at a self-imposed distance from Him.

### Bible Passage

Luke 15:11-24

### Discussion

1. The Bible includes many examples where a person who draws closer to God suddenly recognises their own inadequacies and unworthiness. What are some of these Bible moments that you can recall? (e.g. Moses and the burning bush.)
2. Read Luke 15:17-19. The prodigal son had a revelation of self-awareness that prompted a decision to change his life direction. How might he have felt in this moment? What did he reveal about his subconscious perception of his father in this decision? Have you ever had a 'prodigal son' moment?
3. The son saw himself as unworthy and sinful in his point of revelation, placing judgement on his own worth and actions. What can be the consequence of judging ourselves? Of judging others?
4. The father responded to the son with excessive and abundant grace and forgiveness beyond anything that the son could have imagined. Have you ever experienced this kind of forgiveness from God? What might be preventing you from experiencing such grace?

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5. What is your personal understanding of the grace of God? How is this grace magnified considering our recognition of our own sinful inclinations?
6. The acceptance of God's grace will take you further. Discuss.

### **Respond**

At the point of revelation of our sin and God's grace, we have a choice to make. Despite our own brokenness, if we are willing to accept God's grace we can draw closer to Him and thus go further with Him. Alternatively, we can recoil from this opportunity and instead busy ourselves with our lives, leaving God standing at a distance with His arms outstretched to us. What do you need to do today to draw closer to God? Have you fully accepted His offer of grace? Take a moment now to ask for His forgiveness and accept His love and grace towards you.