

Lesson Plan - Session 10 – Step 2, Conclude; Intro Step 3

Time	Activity
0:00	<p>Opening Prayer</p> <p>Plan for the session</p> <p>Catch-up sharing</p> <p>Share Exercise 2.3</p> <p>Introduce Step 3</p> <p>Assignments</p>
0:05	<p>Catch-up sharing</p> <p>Step 1 – Reflections Prayer</p> <p>Step 2 – Exercise 2.1</p> <p>Step 2 – Exercise 2.2</p>
0:20	<p>Share Exercise 2.3 – Higher Power Letter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask each man to read his letter (~ 2 minutes each) • Ask about any observations or conclusions after hearing these letters/prayers.
1:00	<p>Introduce Step 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read Step 3 aloud – taking turns going around the circle. (If time permits after sharing Step 2 exercises. If not, provide a brief overview and ask each man to read Step 3 in its entirety before the next meeting.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OK to read Step 3 prayer now. Read again - aloud as a group when finishing Step 3 in Session 12. • Ask questions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What was most striking to you about this reading? ○ Any specific takeaways related to your problem and/or your recovery?
1:20	<p>Assignments</p> <p>Review the assignments on the Overview for the next session.</p> <p>Read Step 3, pages 91-94</p> <p>Complete/revise Exercises 3.1 and 3.2</p> <p>Each template has instruction and there are other explanations or instructions embedded in Step 3 reading.</p> <p>Final questions or comments</p>
1:25	Closing Prayer
1:30	Adjourn – may leave meeting open for additional discussion

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Leader Discussion Notes

Step 3 – read the words aloud. This is a step to make a decision.

Question – 3 frogs are sitting on a log. One decides to jump in. How many are left on the log?

Answer – 3; deciding and doing are two different things.

Jesus and the 12 Steps – Denison

The Prodigal Son – Luke 15: 11-32

William Barclay called this “the greatest short story in the world.”

We can identify with a prodigal son because we have been one.

In this chapter, Luke tells 3 stories: lost sheep, lost coin, lost son. Interesting numbers: 1/100 sheep, 1/10 coins, 1/2 sons. The first 2 searched diligently, the father waited. Jesus tells these stories in response to a crowd that mutters – He welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Benevolent father who allowed his son to exercise free will.

Younger son – prodigal – disrespectful, demanding, frivolous, eventually repentant and humble

Older son – diligent in his duty, but pompous, self-righteous, and self-absorbed. His younger brother did not suffer enough for his sins and the older brother was not recognized enough for his actions.

The younger son went searching for his true bottom. Addiction takes you to “a distant country”. In seeking your high, you find an unbearable low. In the distant country, you will lose all contact with family, friends, and all who love you most. And it did not (does not) take long. His addiction to the wild life cost him more than he wanted to pay and kept him longer than he wanted to stay.

Before he could come back, he had to hit bottom. He spent “everything” – that’s insanity. He had not “bought a return ticket”. He then decided to “rent himself” to a local where he would feed pigs (Jews were forbidden to even touch pigs). He still had not hit bottom.

His hunger is where/when he hit bottom. He was ready to eat what the pigs ate.

Augustine – he told God – You never depart from us, but yet, only with difficulties do we return to you.”

Tony Robbins – It is in your moments of decision that your destiny is shaped

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John Maxwell – Life is a matter of choices, and every choice you make makes you.

After a series of bad choices, the prodigal son made a good one. It would be better to be one of his father's hired servants than the life he had created for himself.

He prepared to confess – “Father I have sinned against heaven and against you.” If you are living in addiction today, you must own it; the blame game must stop.

27 words in the son's speech to his father.

Beautiful words – 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. The father did not chase the younger son, but was ready to reconcile anytime his son was ready.

The son delivered his speech word for word, but the father interrupted him after only 19 words. There would be no talk of becoming like a hired servant. The father had other, better ideas. The son had no right to be taken back, but the father did for him what he could not do for himself.

Best robe, ring, sandals, fatted calf, party, etc.

When we turn our wills and our lives over to the care of God, we will never be disappointed.

The prodigal son never ceased to be his father's son. The son of a wealthy man was living like a pauper – sin does that to us. When the son made the decision to turn his life over to the care of his father, a life that had become completely unmanageable was now filled with hope.

The prodigal son had taken many steps in the journey to make his life unmanageable. His return was one step – the Third Step.

The prodigal's father could recognize his son, and Step Three, a mile away. The son began his walk home all alone, but it did not end that way. Just as the prodigal's father met him on the road, your Father waits for you. If you decide to turn your will and life over to the care of God, he is waiting for you and will make sure you reach your destination.