

GROUNDED!



John David Crowe | Nov 14, 2010

In a nutshell:

What keeps us rooted and grounded in our faith is the knowledge of the height and depth and length and width of the love of Christ.

Icebreaker: Throughout our spiritual journey there are times we feel close to God and times we feel farther away.

Discuss: Thinking back on your own spiritual journey, what was the “high water mark?” Was it many years ago or more recent? Where do you feel you are right now?

Knowing the Extravagant Dimensions of Christ's Love:

We, like the prodigal, sometimes don't know how to go home.

Read the story of The Lost (prodigal) Son in Luke 15. Use multiple translations if available. The prodigal stayed in his misery because he did not know how to go home. It was easier for him to work at menial, humiliating tasks than to take steps to return to relationship.

Discuss: Is it easier for you to do things *for* God than to maintain your *relationship* with Him? What tasks are you tempted to fall back on when the relationship is strained?

The prodigal came home with a misperception of how he would be received.

The son was surprised when his father saw him from a distance and was filled with compassion. The father's love covered a multitude of bad decisions.

Discuss: If you were to “come home” to God after a period of disobedience, how do you think God would receive you? Is it hard for you to remember God's willingness to forgive?

The prodigal had to be a son in order to go home. No vagabond or wanderer would have been received as he was. We are all created by God but we are not all children of God. Only those who accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are members of God's family.

Discuss: Have you given your life to Christ? Do you have any doubt about being rooted in the love of Christ? If you already know Christ, do you need to “come home” after an absence? Discuss this with your group.

As a Group:

John David made the statement “Don't let temporary circumstances and emotions rule your relationship with God.” How can we help each other, encourage one another, and bear each other's burdens to keep this from happening?