



Deal  
Matthew 5:20-22,  
27-28;  
Luke 15:21-24



## study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.

### INTRODUCTION

During childhood, you may have been handed a faith framework through which you began to view the world. For a lot of us, that childhood framework didn't survive the rigors of adulthood. It's not enough to say, "The Bible says . . ." in the face of real-life tragedy. Adults often need a new starting point.

But the starting point for Christian faith isn't, "The Bible says . . ." It's better than that. It's Jesus.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think our culture is uncomfortable with the word "sin"?
2. Do you see evidence of sin in the world around us? If so, where?
3. What kind of reaction does the word "sin" stir in you? What do you associate with it?
4. During the message, Dwain said, "*Jesus' agenda in pointing out our sin was not condemnation but restoration.*" Is that statement difficult for you to believe? Why or Why not?
5. **Read Luke 15:11–32.** What's most surprising to you about this parable? How does it challenge the way you view God? If this is truly the way God acts, what does that truth cause you to want to do about faith?
6. **Read together 1 John 1:9.** This is a man who walked with Jesus on earth. What does his statement do inside you for your faith?
7. Here's the question of the week: Do you resist the idea that you are a sinner? Is there something offensive about that? If so, why? If not, why not?

### MOVING FORWARD

Those who knew Jesus best tell us that *he* is the starting point of faith. He came to bridge the gap created by our sin—not our unintentional mistakes, but our sin.

Recognizing our sin paves the way to restoration and redemption. Jesus isn't put off by your sin. He's ready to forgive your sin and restore God's relationship with you.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. Romans 3:23–24*