

THE GOSPEL & SEXUALITY

A NEWSTORY CHURCH SERIES

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Part 5: Return of the Prodigal

Ron Koustas

- 1) Icebreaker question: If you're given an early monetary inheritance, how would you spend that money?
- 2) Read Luke 15:11-32 and Romans 8:38-39. Does Ron's story give you hope that anyone who "leaves the faith" can come back? And if it's someone you know, how would you respond? Like the older brother? Like the father? Somewhere in between?
- 3) Read Genesis 19:4-5; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:27. Honestly, how have these "clobber verses" shaped/formed your general view of the LGBTQ+ community? (either subtle or obvious) Put yourself on the receiving end of these verses, how would it make you feel about God and what Christians may think about you?
- 4) Read Psalm 86:5-7. What are some radical ways you can be a family to the lonely? Corporately as a church, as a small group and as an individual. Was there ever a time you found yourself utterly alone and you hoped someone came beside you?
- 5) The Ex-Gay movement and conversion therapy has all but died in the US, but is widely taught abroad that Christians need to be cured of their same-sex attractions or homosexuality. How do you approach this issue? Should Christians seek to be cured? Is there an alternative? What can that look like?
- 6) Take a critical look at NewStory Church. Is it a safe place for a person to come out expressing same-sex attractions or gender dysphoria? Could someone approach a congregant, small group member/leader, elder or pastor and feel safe to do so? OR is there a prevailing atmosphere that "surely it can't happen here"?
- 7) What are your takeaways from this series? How would you apply them in your life?