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INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

RESTORATION STUDIES

A SERIES FOR RETURNING DISCIPLES

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WELCOME HOME

This study helps the person to feel welcomed back and assess why they left and how to be restored. Have a good talk about them becoming a Christian, to leaving the church, to wanting to come back.

1. Luke 15:11-24

- a. Discuss the heart of God and the church when someone returns.

2. Luke 15:11-13

- a. Why did the son in this parable leave?
- b. It may be different for you, but why did you leave the church?
- c. Did others sin against you?
- d. Assure them that “no one is getting away with anything”.
 - i. We will do our best to help you and the other person (or people) work through whatever conflicts need to be addressed.
 - ii. (Psalm 37:1-11) Even if the other person is unwilling to work through their part, God assures us that he will bring about justice and vindication in the end.
 - iii. (1 Peter 2:18-25) The important thing is to work through our own part.

3. Luke 15:14-17

- a. Why did the son return?
- b. It may be different for you, but why are you returning?

4. Luke 15:18-19

- a. Why was it important for the son to look at his part?
- b. What’s your part?
- c. Have you sinned against God and others?
- d. If you could do it over again, what would you do differently?

5. Luke 15:20-24

- a. How excited is God about your return? Why?
- b. What was key to restoring the relationship between the father and son?
Repentance.

Follow Up:

Pray together.

HEARTFELT REPENTANCE

This study defines heartfelt repentance for the returning Christian.

1. James 5:19-20

- a. Notice that coming back to God (and his church) is all about turning back to God, which involves turning away from sin and the world.

2. 1 John 2:15-17

- a. What are some good reasons to turn away from the world, and back to God?

3. 1 John 1:5-2:6

- a. No one's perfect, but we must be walking in the light to be right with God and each other.

4. Luke 7:36-50

- a. The Sinful Woman is the model of true, heartfelt repentance.
- b. What's the point of Jesus' teaching here?
- c. How does this apply to you?

5. James 5:16

- a. What's the value of confession and openness?
- b. Are you comfortable with doing that today?

6. Galatians 5:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Mark 7:20-22

- a. What sins and character issues do you need to repent of?

7. 2 Corinthians 7:8-11

- a. What's the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?
- b. Which of these qualities of Godly Sorrow do you still need to have?

Follow Up:

1. Make a list of the major sins you've committed since leaving.
2. Write a letter of apology to God.
3. Make a list of people you think you ought to apologize to or reconcile with.

RECONCILING RELATIONSHIPS

This study helps the individual to resolve and reconcile hurt relationships with God and others.

Review the sin list, letter of apology, and list of people together.

List of Major Sins

1. Discuss and help person to see things clearly, connect dots, be convicted.
2. Any addictive sins they need more specialized help with? (Refer them to appropriate people who can help and suggest professional help when needed.)

Letter of Apology to God

1. How did that go?
2. Offer help where needed.

List of People to Apologize or Reconcile With

1. Discuss this thoroughly.
2. Offer to mediate where conflict resolution is needed.

Importance Of Forgiveness and Conflict Resolution

1. Matthew 5:23-26
2. Matthew 5:38-48
3. Matthew 6:9-15
4. Matthew 7:1-5
5. Matthew 18:21-35

Follow Up:

Pray together.

RENEWED & RESTORED

This study is done as the last restoration study before they are formally restored. It will show them principles that will help them stay close to the Lord for a lifetime.

1. Matthew 7:13-14

- a. What are some things that make the road to eternal life so narrow?
- b. What's it going to take for you to stay on the narrow road?

2. Romans 12:2

- a. Spiritual disciplines that will help you get back on track and stay on track.
 - i. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Quiet Times
 - ii. (Matthew 6:7-12) Prayer
 - iii. (John 14:15-24) Obedience
 - iv. (Hebrews 3:12-14) Relationships

3. 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

- a. Christ's love, especially as shown on the cross, is what will keep us faithful for a lifetime.
- b. Discuss what the cross means to you, and why it's so motivating.

4. Titus 2:11-3:11

- a. (3:7) Tells us that God's grace is what we ought to stress in our teaching.
- b. What reasons does the passage read give for this?

5. Ephesians 4:16

- a. How is the body made strong according to this passage?

6. Ephesians 1:23-24

- a. Christ's body is the church.
- b. Are you ready to be an active, contributing part of the body again?

Follow Up:

Discuss how and when to be officially restored to the church.



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