



The Journey Home:

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Seven steps that will show you how to begin  
a relationship with God.



Start here...

“Once upon a time there

was a father who had two sons. Their father was rather wealthy by most people's standards and would someday leave a large inheritance to them both. The younger son, however, was not content to wait. He convinced his father to give him his inheritance early, and the young man departed quite wealthy but not very wise.

Being quite popular, now that he could live in luxury  
and purchase friendships that only money could buy,  
he lived the life of one big party. Was it fun? Absolutely!  
Was it satisfying? Who cares about satisfaction when  
there's enough pleasure to meet any desire?  
Was it what his father would have wanted for him?

Of course not,  
but what does a dad know about the life of a  
young man in his prime?

Did the party ever end?

Absolutely.

It ended nearly as quickly as it had begun.  
It ended with the son bankrupt of money, bankrupt of  
friends and working on a farm feeding pigs for pennies.  
Hungry by day and freezing by night, the son soon  
realized his error. Life at home hadn't been so bad.

His father had loved him, cared for him,  
and had only wanted the best for him.

Even his father's servants were living  
better than he was now...

But, to go home on your knees begging forgiveness is  
pretty humbling. Life would have to be bad to force a  
son to do this. But he was sick of his situation, sick of the  
emptiness inside, and sick of himself.

The son faced a defining moment in his life.



t was decision time.

“I’m going home”, he said to himself. “I’ll beg Dad’s

forgiveness and ask to be his servant. At least I’ll sleep warm and eat plenty.” So he left for home.

But what would he find when he arrived?

Only God knows how many times the son’s father walked to the end of the drive to look for his son. But this was the day! Spotting his son while he was still a long way off, the father raced down the road to meet him.

The father threw his arms around his son. There were no lectures, no words, “I told you so” — and no anger.

Only tears of joy, love and acceptance.

“**I** blew it Dad. I sinned against heaven and you.  
I ruined everything. I don’t deserve to be your son.”

But, turning to his servants, the father shouted,  
“**Q**uick, the best robe for my son, shoes for his feet  
and the family ring for his finger.

Put on the best steaks we’ve got!

There’s going to be a huge celebration tonight! You see  
everybody, my son was dead, but he is alive again;  
he was lost and is now found.”

What a party it was!

“None like it ever before,” was the word on the street.

Lost sons (and daughters)

don't come home every day, you know.

*Some say the father is planning a party that will never end;  
and they'll all live happily every after.*



et some insight here...

Jesus told the story you just read.

For you to enter heaven, to have a relationship with God,  
is like that son's journey home.

Only it is your journey.



If the son had not returned home,  
he certainly would have been lost forever.

The lost son found forgiveness in an instant.

But it was the end of a series of steps leading home.

Salvation that God the Father offers you is the same.

Each person must go through steps on the journey “home”  
back to our heavenly Father—where our sins are taken  
away and we are saved! No one can do this for you.

Others can help show the way home, but  
the decision to return to the father  
is completely up to you.



Start the journey home here...

Walk through these steps,  
answering each question. We've provided  
some of the Bible verses, but you may want to  
grab a Bible and look up additional verses yourself.

If at any point along the journey you  
aren't certain or answer 'no'  
then perhaps you'll want some more information.

Rest assured that there are plenty of fellow  
travelers willing to assist you!



Step 1.

Do I believe there is a God?  
Yes - No - Not sure

Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created  
the heavens and the earth.”

You probably are convinced that *something*, or *someone*  
created all this or you wouldn't be reading this book.  
Search your heart...Is there, or is there not a God?

*Additional Bible verses: Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20*



Do I think that I am responsible to God?  
Yes - No - Not sure

Romans 14:12 “So then, each of us will  
give an account of himself to God.”

This is a difficult step. The Bible reveals a God who is personal. He knows your name. He knows your life. He cares about the choices you have made and how you live. What you do matters to God. Can you accept this?

*Additional verse: Hebrews 9:27*



Have I failed my responsibility to God?  
Yes - No - Not sure

Have I failed to live up to God's standard of perfection?  
Have I broken God's laws? Have I sinned?

Romans 3:10-11 As it is written: "There is no one  
righteous, not even one; there is no one  
who understands, no one who seeks God."

The lost son realized at some point,  
“I’ve not lived the life my Father wanted  
and now I am far from home, lost, and alone.”  
It takes a great deal of honesty  
and courage to finally admit  
that what the Bible says about us is true.

What about you?

*Additional verses: Romans 3:19, 23; 1 John 1:8; Exodus 20:3-17; Matthew 22:36-40*



## Step 4.

Can't God just overlook my sin?

Yes - No - Not sure

Romans 6:23a “For the wages of sin is death...”

It's just a fact of life. Had the son stayed away from home,  
he would have starved to death.

There is no real, lasting life apart from the God  
who created life!



## Step 5.

Do I believe that God sent His son, Jesus Christ,  
into our world and that He never sinned?

Yes - No - Not sure

1 John 3:5 “But you know that he appeared so that He  
might take away our sins. And in Him is no sin.”

What if someone came and lived life the way God  
expected it to be lived and then, wonder of wonders,  
died in the place of those who have sinned?

Can you really grasp the wonder of that?

*Additional verses: Hebrews 4:15, Romans 5:19; John 3:16*



## Step 6.

Do I believe that I can *come home* to God only through  
Jesus Christ, his son?  
Yes - No - Not sure

Romans 6:23b “...but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus  
Christ our Lord.”

Wouldn't it, then, make perfect sense, that Jesus, God's  
Son, prepared the way home for us?

*He is the way home!*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.”

Do I believe that Jesus died in my place?



tep 7.

Am I willing to...

Admit that I need a Savior? Luke 18:9-14

Believe completely on Christ? John 3:16

Call upon Him to take control of my life and save me?

Romans 10:13

Yes - No - I'm not sure



ead for home here...

If you said YES to the three questions above,  
then you are ready to begin  
a new relationship with God!

Millions of people from every nation,  
tribe and tongue have  
begun a relationship with God  
starting with a prayer.



A simple prayer to begin a relationship with God...

“Dear God, I admit that I have sinned against you. I deserve your judgment. I believe that Jesus is your Son. I believe He died on the cross for me, as payment for my sin, and rose again the third day. I am willing to allow you to help me change the way I have been living. I want to come home. Please forgive me. I open my heart and life to Jesus Christ and ask You to forgive me, change me and help me obey You. Amen”



## he Next Step...

If you aren't sure about all this, we understand. We suggest that you connect with us or someone else to explore a relationship with God further.

If you prayed that prayer or something similar, then you are ready for the next step.

Please drop us a line here at NewLife and let us know about your decision. We promise not to bother you beyond a friendly follow-up call. Or, you can connect with someone you know is a Christian. Tell them about your decision. Talk with them to get any questions answered.

It has been our honor to share this with you!  
If you took all 7 steps on the journey...

“Welcome home!”



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