



WEEK 7 DEVOTIONAL

I Know Who You Are | Living Out of Life's Most Lavish Love

RECEIVE

Take some time to reflect on **Luke 15:11–24**, **1 John 3:1–10** and **1 Corinthians 13:8–13**. Read the passages slowly, thoughtfully, prayerfully. As you read write down all the descriptions of our identity and position with Jesus. After you have done this journal your conversation to God as to what captures your attention as you have reflected on your identity in Jesus through these passages.

REFLECT

1. In what ways have you become like the boy, Dia Vandy, in the film, *Blood Diamond*? I know it's a hard question but self-awareness and honesty with ourselves is needed to move forward in our spiritual formation.

- Distant from your Father
- Forgetful of your true home
- Hard of heart
- A servant of dangerous masters
- The following other scars from the war...

2. How is the God the Bible reveals like the wise father, Solomon, in that story? Read Luke 15:11-24 and list any parallels you notice.
3. To what extent can you identify your own experience of returning to the Father with that of Dia's? In what ways have any of these "conversions" occurred for you?
 - I have recognized my true Father
 - I have felt genuine sorrow over what I have become
 - I have put down the "gun(s)" that I've used to protect or advance myself
 - I have buried my head in my Father's chest
 - I have started to live afresh after the example and guidance of my Father
4. What do you think it will be like to see God fully and face-to-face one day? What do you suppose you will feel or think at that time?

RESPOND

5. If someone is a growing "child of God," what do you sense their orientation and behavior toward other people will be? Where do you see your life lining up with this picture? Where does it seem "off the mark"? What are you willing to do in response? Journal a few practical steps and then share them with a trusted friend who can be on this journey with you.

RESOURCES

The Prodigal God, by Timothy Keller

The Return of the Prodigal Son, by Henri Nouwen

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:11–24 | New International Version

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

1 John 3:1–10 | New International Version

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears,[a] we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴ Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. ⁵ But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. ⁶ No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

⁷ Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. ⁸ The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. ⁹ No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. ¹⁰ This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

1 Corinthians 13:8–13 | New International Version

⁸ Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. ¹¹ When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. ¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³ And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.