



HOW TO GET CLOSER TO GOD

Josh Hawley, Pastor of Spiritual Growth
October 5, 2014

**Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.
*Romans 12:2***

The further away you get from God, the more your life is troubled.

The closer you get to God, the more your life is transformed.

The Lost Son & Loving Father: Luke 15:11-24

Get Fed Up with My Life (Luke 15:13-14, 17; Jeremiah 29:13)

Own Up to My Sin (Luke 15:17-18; Isaiah 59:2)

- ***The Habit of a Regular Spiritual Check-up (1 Corinthians 11:28; 2 Corinthians 13:5)***

*Memory Verse: This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun.
2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)*

Offer Up Myself (Luke 15:12, 19; 2 Corinthians 3:18)

- ***The Father's Response (Luke 15:20-22)***

Lift Up My Praise (Luke 15:23-24; Psalm 68:4)

- ***The Habit of Singing All the Songs in Church***

*This Week in Your LifeGroup:
Seven Habits for Spiritual Health*

Next Steps

- I will start the 50 Days Workbook tomorrow!
- I'm committing to follow Jesus fully for the first time today.
- I'm re-committing to follow Jesus fully today.
- I will memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17 this week.

SPIRITUAL HEALTH DEVOTIONAL THIS WEEK:

Monday, 10/6	Day 1
Tuesday, 10/7	Day 2
Wednesday, 10/8	Day 3
Thursday, 10/9	Day 4
Friday, 10/10	Day 5
Saturday, 10/11	Day 6
Sunday, 10/12	Day 7



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Play the weekly lesson from the *Transformation* DVD. The study guide in your *Transformed* workbook will provide questions for your LifeGroup to discuss and grow from this week.

Outlined below are some **additional study questions** that can be used for personal reflection or discussion with friends.

1. **Read Jeremiah 29: 12-14.** In the verse, God said 'get serious about finding me.' What does this 'getting serious' look like in a person's life? How can we know when we are making progress about getting serious?
2. Nothing will change until we are fed up with our life; dissatisfied and hungry for a different life. What is something in your life you are fed up with? Has God been 'knocking on your door' trying to get your attention about something?
3. Often sins develop when we begin to love something more than we love God, so that 'something' becomes an idol. What are some things that could easily become idols in your life?
4. God loves us unconditionally and is always waiting for us to come to Him, like the loving father in **Luke 15: 20** (*"Filled with love and compassion, he ran out to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him."*). Knowing this, what makes us hold back from getting closer to God?