



AWAKENING TO HELP

"I can't do this on my own."

Connect:

- Open with Prayer
- Share a funny story of a situation you found yourself in that you couldn't get yourself out of? (i.e. getting your car stuck, clothes caught on something, locked out, etc.)
- What are some things that bring you temporary fulfillment and joy?

We will never truly find our way back to God until we admit that we are powerless on our own to find true fulfillment in this life.

Grow:

- Read Luke 15:14-24. The youngest son spent everything he had running after happiness and fulfillment and ultimately came up broken and empty. If you can be honest with yourself, what are some things that you have, or are currently running after that are leaving you feeling broken and empty? Often we can admit easy vices like excessive alcohol and lust, but what about "good" things like careers and kids. The truth is, if the path we choose to bring us meaning and fulfillment in our life doesn't lead to Christ, we will be left empty and broken, much like the younger son.
- As the younger son realized his folly, what do you think was going through his head as he was headed back toward his father? Do you think he felt too far gone? Do you feel too far gone? What do you think was going through the younger son's head as he saw experienced his father's response to him coming home? What does the father's reaction teach us about having the confidence to return to God?
- Read Matthew 11:28-30. How are the *weary and burdened* like the younger son? Like you? What kind of reception is Jesus telling us that the *weary and burdened* receive when they turn toward God? Talk about what area(s) of your life you need to turn over to God. If you have never received God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, talk to the people in your group about their experience.

Go:

- As a group, listen to the song "More of You" by Colton Dixon. (Audio with words.) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9jeLGP3nIc>. Google the lyrics to follow along.
- Pastor Brad challenged us to pray **"God if you're real, make yourself real to me. Awaken in me the willingness to turn toward you for help."**
- For the next 30 days make that and if you're ready to journey deeper, this, your prayer. **"God, I need more of you and less of me, make me who I'm meant to be. You're all I want all I need. You're everything. Take it all, I surrender. Be my King. God I choose more of you, less of me."**
- Pray these prayers along with any others as a group before you end your time.

- Start thinking this week about how you can start to serve your community as a group. You know that Shift Church exists to shift people toward Christ and community, so brainstorm some ideas on how your group can shift Gainesville by serving the *weary and burdened*.