



## WEEK 1

### The Name of Your Shame

Sept 15 & 16, 2017

Pastor Jared Herd

## LEADER'S GUIDE

### 1. When was the last time you were embarrassed?

This is intended to be an easy ice-breaker, so preface this question by saying this can be the kind of embarrassing situation that you can laugh at now.

#### Are embarrassment and shame the same thing? Why or why not?

Shame typically has a connotation of fault or wrongdoing that embarrassment often does not. Talk about that difference.

### 2. Why do you think Jesus told stories to address real questions or criticisms?

Two insights from Got.questions: 1. Stories are more easily remembered and the inherent symbolism in stories can be rich in meaning. Parables were a common form of teaching in Judaism. 2. Many people had no heart to hear truth from God so Jesus's teaching in story was actually a mercy to them. Perhaps the meaning would dawn on them much later, when their hearts were ready to hear it. What might be some additional reasons?

Why do you think "sinners" found Him irresistible?

Pastor Jared mentioned one reason that you can begin with. In eating with the tax collectors and prostitutes and other undesirables of the day, Jesus was conferring dignity on them. In that culture, to eat a meal with someone was to confer dignity on them.

Other possible reasons? Keep in mind that Jesus never turned a blind eye to sin, and He always called people to repentance.

### 3. Jesus's critics, the Pharisees, were annoyed by the company Jesus kept. Why? What was their attitude toward sinners?

The Pharisees believed that Jesus couldn't be from God because God didn't approve of sinners. Keeping the law was what mattered to God, which sinners didn't do. The Pharisees were all about seats of honor and keeping the law and keeping the peace with Rome.

What is God's attitude toward sinners?

Among the Pharisee's many faults, is that they failed to see that what God doesn't approve of is sin. The sinner, He loves, or He would not have sent Jesus to die for them.

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

#### 4. Read Luke 15:11-21.

**Luke 15:11-21 (NIV)** 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.'

**Why do you think the younger son asked for his inheritance early? What do you think his relationship with his father was like?**

This is of course not a true story, but a parable, but Jesus crafted it to make a point, to illustrate something. What is it that this fictional young man wanted? Look at what he asked for and what he did with it. How is this son a picture of people who want to live their lives apart from God and yet be sourced by Him to live a self-centered, independent life?

Why do you think the father gave his son what he asked for?

As the father in the story is representative of God the Father, think of why God does what He does. What do you think is His motivation for what He does with us? Suppose the story was about real people. What would have happened if this father had said *No* to the son?

### **5. What does it mean to you that the younger son came to his senses?**

This phrase “come to his senses” is also translated, “When he came to himself.” The phrase incorporates a Greek word that means “to come from one place to another.” Talk about what that might mean for this young man’s inward journey. What do you think happened inside of him to have it be described this way?

#### **How did he get to that point?**

Jesus said he’d squandered what his father had given him. What does the word “squander” mean to you? Talk about it in your group.

#### **How did shame play a role?**

It wasn’t just that this young man was desperately hungry and knew back at home he could get fed, he realized he’d sinned against both God and his father. He had blown it big time and he knew it. He wasn’t just sorry he’d wound up penniless in a pig pen. He was sorry for what he did, not just how he ended up.

### **6. Pastor Jared said shame is like fear. It’s not a place at which to stay. What did he mean?**

Pastor Jared said shame and fear both have their place to motivate us to do something to avoid disaster or danger. Too much of either one though can paralyze us into inaction.

How did the younger’s son shame affect his sense of identity? What was the problem with that?

Pastor Jared shared that the son said to his father, “I am no longer worthy to be called your son,” which was an overdose of shame. His identity as the father’s son had not changed just because he’d made terrible choices, just like ours does not change when we do wrong. Pastor Jared said there is difference between saying, “I did something wrong,” and “I am something wrong.” Talk about that.

### **7. We learned this weekend that self-absorbed shame can cause five responses that God doesn’t intend for us to have. What were they?**

INFLATOR – One bad act gets inflated into one bad person

COMPARER- Someone else's success equals your failure

PROJECTOR – Everyone must have the same negative thoughts about you that you have about yourself

TRANSLATOR – Any minor criticism gets translated into major attack of your character

EXAGGERATOR – A petty fault feels like a moral disaster

Which one do you relate to you most?

**8. What does it mean to you that there is no shame in the presence of Jesus? How do we know this true?**

In taking on all our sin, Jesus also took all the shame that goes with it. Some great verses that speak to this:

**1 Peter 2:12** “He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed.”

**Hebrews 12:1-2** “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

**MEMORIZE Romans 8:1 (NIV):** “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

**MEDITATE:** This week be mindful of your responses to recognized sin. Are you prone to conducting your own shame ceremony? Thank God in prayer for His transforming work in your life and that He loves you for you, not for what you do or don't do.