



## The Way Home Robert Morris

**Focus** The key to coming home is honesty. We must first be honest with ourselves. We must then be honest with others and honest with God.

**Fun** What are your favorite things about fall? What does fall remind you of? What do you love to do in the fall?

**Review** Key Scriptures: Luke 15:17–19; Genesis 20:1–6

- **Be honest with yourself.** The way home starts with being honest with yourself. In Genesis, God kept Abimelech from sinning because he acted in the integrity of his heart. To walk with integrity means to walk with completeness, or to be completely honest.
- **Be honest with others.** James 5:16 says to confess your trespasses to one another and you will be healed. It is important to be honest with others when you miss the mark. If you don't confess the little things, you won't confess the big things. When you stop being honest with yourself and others, you'll stop being honest with God.
- **Be honest with God.** In Acts 5, there is a story about Ananias and Sapphira who lied to others which also meant they were lying to God. When Jesus prayed before going to the cross, He was honest in His prayer that He wanted "this cup to pass," but He was also completely submitted to God when He prayed, "not my will be done, but Your will be done."

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** It is always fun and refreshing to change things up a little. Pick a week to do something out of the box. Get creative. It may be something as simple as

changing locations or meeting at a restaurant, or it may be something like doing an outreach or a day trip together. Whatever your idea may be, make sure you keep yourself from getting into a rut and change things up from time to time.

- Discuss**
1. Compare how the world views honesty and how believers view honesty. What are the similarities? What are the differences?
  2. What are some of the advantages of being honest? How does living a completely honest life allow you to have freedom and joy?
  3. What are some of the roadblocks that keep people from being completely honest?
  4. Why does Satan want to keep us from being honest and from walking in the light? What are some of the lies Satan uses to keep people from being honest?
  5. What are responses we have that either let people be honest around us or keep people from being honest with us?
  6. How can we listen and respond in a way that fosters an atmosphere of honesty and openness?
  7. Take a few minutes for everyone to bow their head and have some time listening to the Holy Spirit. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Is there something you need to be honest with someone about? Are you a person whom others can be honest with? If you need to, set a time and make a goal to be honest with anyone you may need to talk to. Or, decide to be a nonjudgmental listener whom others can be honest with.

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- Be honest with yourself.
- Be honest with others.
- Be honest with God.

**Prayer** Heavenly Father, we praise Your Holy Name. Thank You that You love us and accept us for who we are. Help us to always remain honest with

ourselves, honest with You, and honest with others. Help us to always walk in the integrity of our hearts. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tip\*** Always be on the lookout for ways you can empower others. Always be thinking about how you can get each member of your group more engaged and more involved. For some, it may be assigning them a responsibility. For others, it may be developing them as leaders. It is your job as the leader to help people take their next step and become more engaged.