

# Welcome Home!

“Welcome Home!” are the words you’re so ready to hear. Far too long you have waited for the place where you can be at rest, to hear the gentle sounds of love, a warm hug about your neck, and a delicious meal set just for you. You want to experience that moment of having a loving home, and yet may not even be able to relate to it. So, I’m here to tell you that there really is such a place where you can call home.

You may ask, “What does a real home look like?” Perhaps, like so many others, you were raised in a houseful of people but never truly experienced a home, so you cannot imagine it. But a real home is where you feel loved, appreciated, and celebrated. In a home you are corrected and protected because they want the best for you. A home is where you are loved unconditionally and are inspired to grow into the man or woman that God created you to be. A home is where you receive the training and disciplines, not just to succeed, but to truly live. However, the greatest part of a home is where you learn about the saving grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ and are encouraged to have Him in your life – everyday. Truly, this life gets over in a hurry. So, accepting Jesus’ offering of eternal life ensures that you will live life on earth to its fullest – but also to live life to the fullest in all of eternity. This is the model for a real home!

It is also a truth that you are going to mess up your life on earth in some measure and form. And if you think that you won’t, think again. In Luke 15:11-32 there is a story of a man with two sons. One of the sons got tired of working for his dad and asked for his inheritance. Of course, the father didn’t want this, but he gave his inheritance and the son left home traveling on a partying spree. He did everything he thought he was big enough to do, squandering all his inheritance until he landed on a farm, eating with the pigs. One day, he realized that he had walked away from the only true place he was ever loved... at home. As He was traveling back home, he wasn’t sure what to expect, probably thinking that his father would hate that he returned and would reject him. But what he didn’t know was that his father had never stopped looking for him to come home. When the father saw his son in the distance he ran to him, hugged his neck, and kissed him. Then he killed a fatted calf and commanded a party to celebrate the return of his beloved son. Did the father scorn him? No. Did the father reject him? No. The father never reflected on his mistakes but only gave thanks that his son was home. At last, the son was at rest and could enjoy life again.

I truly wish that everyone had a real home and a father like that on earth, but I know that many do not. However, I can tell you that you have a heavenly Father that loves you more than any man ever could. No matter how far you have traveled without Jesus, He still waits for you to come home. He stands watching and waiting. And when you return, He stretches His arms wide open, runs to you, and rejoices over you.

Dear Jesus,

You are the most perfect role model for a home experience. You have such a big heart of unconditional love for them! In your home you made a place just for them – and it is second to none. Furthermore, you purposely made them a place at your table which is loaded with every good thing. Jesus, I pray they feel your arms of acceptance wrapping around them and hearing your gentle voice say, “Welcome Home.” May they rest in your love and acceptance, feel celebrated and treasured, and know that they are protected by you. You did more than kill a fatted calf for them, you gave your life because you wanted them to live eternally with you. May they feel that place of a true home – even in this life, regardless of where they live. And I am believing that they will not hesitate to come home to you, to feel your heart rejoicing, and to hear you exclaim, “Welcome Home!” Just say “‘Yes and Amen, I receive you Jesus!’ And you are at home.”

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Luke 15:6 **And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost. (ESV)**