

Introduction Bible Study: New Beginnings

Purpose: To allow the group to decide early on in the semester what their purpose at college will be. Compare and contrast: Abraham leaving his homeland and the parable of the prodigal son. Also show the willingness of the disciples to leave their way of life and follow Jesus. Finally, finish by talking about how Jesus left His Father's house, to dwell amongst those who killed Him.

Icebreaker: Have everyone go around the room and introduce him or herself, saying where they came from and what they left behind to come to school. Possibly bring a map to allow people to point to where they're from.

GENESIS 12:1-4 & Hebrews 11:8 - Example of Abraham leaving his homeland.

Q: God commanded him to leave his father's house.

Q: What did it cost Abraham to leave? What did he gain?

Q: He left what he knew and was comfortable with. How can you relate?

Q: He went from the known to the unknown. Discuss your experiences.

MATTHEW 4:18-22 - Example the fishermen leaving home to follow Jesus.

Q: They left behind their father for a man they had just met. Crazy?

Q: What was their fishing lifestyle? Can you relate to them?

Q: What does the phrase fishers of men really mean?

Q: Notice the repetition of the word immediately. Is this significant?

LUKE 15:11-32 Story of the prodigal son. He squanders what his father has for him.

Q: The son left his father's house. Why did he leave home?

Q: Are we ever impatient for our inheritance?

Q: What did this selfish lifestyle lead to? Do you ever feel like you're unworthy?

Q: Aren't you glad that the father is forgiving?

JOHN 5:19-24 Jesus had to leave His home, to come and do the work of the Father.

Q: What does it mean to be a chip off the old block?

Q: Is it important to listen to a father's advice?

Q: What did Jesus give up when he left home?

Q: What did he gain? What did we gain?

Prayer: End by thanking the Lord for His sacrifice. Ask for a willingness to do the right thing after leaving home. Take prayer requests and possibly close with the song, "When God Ran."