

# BIBLE RUNAWAYS

***There were at least 11 Bible characters who “ran away” when things got tough. They are: Adam, Jonah, Elijah, Mark, Onesimus, Moses, Gideon, Prodigal Son, David, Judas Iscariot, and Peter.***

## **Runaway #8 - The Prodigal Son**

- Here are some reasons that counselors say people run away from life. Read Luke 15:11-32 and check which ones you think pertain to the prodigal son.
  - \_\_\_ Anger
  - \_\_\_ To avoid accountability
  - \_\_\_ To avoid consequences
  - \_\_\_ Cannot face a situation
  - \_\_\_ Cannot face an emotion
  - \_\_\_ Danger
  - \_\_\_ Discontentment
  - \_\_\_ Family breakdown
  - \_\_\_ Fear
  - \_\_\_ Feelings of failure
  - \_\_\_ Forced to leave
  - \_\_\_ Loneliness
  - \_\_\_ No problem-solving skills
  - \_\_\_ Relationship dysfunction difficulties
  - \_\_\_ Spiritual problems
  - \_\_\_ Alcohol & drug abuse
  - \_\_\_ Being bullied by people at home
  - \_\_\_ To escape violence & abuse
  - \_\_\_ Mental health issues
  - \_\_\_ To escape neglect
  - \_\_\_ To escape boredom
  - \_\_\_ To find someone who will accept you
  - \_\_\_ To get away from being bossed around
  - \_\_\_ To reject all the values you were taught
- Circle the letter of the reasons above why you ran away from life, marriage, the law, your parents, God, etc.

***There are stages on running away. 1) You plan to run away; 2) You run away the first time; 3) You continue running away; 4) You think about “not” running away but you keep running; 5) You stop running and have a time of responsibility and accountability; 6) You hit a snag & start running again.***

***Luke 15:12      The younger son said to his father, “Father, give me the portion of goods that belong to me.”***

- Yes  No      Does it look like the son is seriously discontent?
- Yes  No      People who are discontent always want a **shortcut** to success.

***Luke 15:12      So the father divided between his two sons all the income, savings, and possessions that he had earned throughout his lifetime.***

***In this story, the father would divide his estate into three parts: the oldest son would get 2/3 of the estate; the younger one would get 1/3 of the estate.***

- Yes  No      It appears that the younger son has decided not to follow the **values** of the Jewish family and wait for the death of the father.
- Yes  No      The younger son did not care what kind of **damage** he would cause in the family business as long as he got his way NOW.
- Yes  No      Regardless of the younger son's foolish **choices**, the father chose to honor God's laws even though he would lose value in the business.

Luke 15:13 *And not many days after the dividing of the estate, the younger son packed his belongings, and journeyed to a far country ...*

8. How many days after the dividing of the estate did the son leave? \_\_\_\_\_
9.  Yes  No Is it fair to assume that the son had been **planning** this for a while?
10.  Yes  No This son and the father definitely had a **communication** problem.
11. Where did the son go? \_\_\_\_\_
12.  Yes  No To get away from boredom & problems, don't we often say that we want to get as **far away** from here as possible?

Luke 15:13 *...he journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with carefree living.*

13.  Yes  No It appears that the son was not used to **wasteful** living.
14.  Yes  No To do something that is totally **opposite** to what you usually do shows how off track he had become (Not thinking right).
15.  Yes  No He must have had a need to be liked & **accepted** by people other than the family & staff back home on the ranch.

Luke 15:18 *(He practiced a speech) "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before (against) you."*  
Luke 15:19 *"...and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me one of your hired servants".*

16. Who did the son say he had sinned against? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
17.  Yes  No Would you agree that the son **knew he was sinning** all along?
18.  Yes  No Did he know at the start that he was **dishonoring** his father?
19.  Yes  No Did he think he had lost his **worth** by his behavior?

20. List the underlined, bold words on the lines below to match the definitions.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I need people who don't know the real me.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I've got to get away from my failures.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I have no respect for my family.
- d. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I am not good for anything or to anyone.
- e. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because it is always in my mind to escape.
- f. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I do not appreciate the value of things.
- g. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I do all the wrong things that I shouldn't.
- h. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I have a history of not deciding right.
- i. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I choose to not do things God's way on purpose.
- j. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I hurt the people around me.
- k. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I don't want to discuss my problems with anyone.
- l. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I reject the things that are important to others.
- m. \_\_\_\_\_ = I run away because I want it my way right now.

21. What have you learned about yourself in this lesson? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_