

PROSPECTIVE TEAM MEMBERS

THE PRODIGAL

Like the Ideals Talk, this one does not begin with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. But, unlike the other talks on Friday evening there is no discussion following the talk. (Length 20 minutes)

This Talk MUST begin with the reading of The Prodigal son story found in Luke 15:11-24. Read the entire passage.

(Note: Most of the Residents won't have the first clue what the word "prodigal" even means. Without that they may not be able to understand the point of your talk. Define the term, explain that this applies to you, give your testimony and summarize how your story is like the Bible story - and their story can be that also.)

PURPOSE OF THE TALK: to cause the listener to understand that their personal sins are not too great for God to forgive.

POINTS TO COVER:

1. The speaker turned his/her back on God.
2. The speaker lived a life of sin
3. The speaker recognized the error of his/her ways and has been accepted back into the loving arms of Jesus.

At the end of the talk the Residents are told that there will be no table discussion of that talk. This talk concludes the first day of the REC and that they should be in silence as they go back to their housing areas. The purpose of the silence is to keep them individually focused on the example they have just been given of someone who has "been there" and "done that." Also, because we are aware that Residents, in general, tend to rebel against authority, we have imposed a rule we hope they will break when they get back to their housing areas. We hope they will get together and discuss the last speaker's story and how portions of it are like episodes in their own lives.

DESIRED RESPONSE: As each Resident leaves the conference room at the end of Day One, what we want them to be thinking about is, although I may have never thought about it, (1) "my life is off track," (2) "God can put me back on track if I am willing" and (3) "if God will take that last speaker back surely I have a chance too." In short, **THERE IS HOPE FOR ME.**

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURES:

Romans 5:8-9 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, *Christ died* for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from *wrath through him.*

Luke 18-27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. Romans 8:31 What shall we then say to these things: If God be for us, who can be against us?

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love and of a sound mind.