



# **On Ramp Class**

SESSION ONE

We often find ourselves at transition points in our lives. Whether it's beginning a new job, or the early season of a new relationship, or maybe taking on a new burden of responsibility to care for someone...or perhaps it's the end of one of these things.

In a similar way, it's not uncommon to find ourselves at a transitional point with matters of faith. Maybe it's reconsidering what you've grown up believing, or dealing with tensions of spiritual things that don't make sense together, or managing religion tradition that doesn't feel genuine or real, or feeling drawn to get over some struggles or challenges that have functioned like walls in your spiritual life. If you feel like your journey of faith might be at a crossroads, this is going to be an awesome experience for you.

**At the end of the day, the questions we ask of ourselves determine the type of people that we will become.**

**– Leo Babauta**

As you participate in reading and processing over these concepts, there's no doubt it will stoke the flames of questions in your heart, deeper thoughts to unpack, and further searching to do. It may get tricky or sticky at times, but don't be discouraged. Push through, stay the course, ask the hard questions, and look for answers that exist out there. Answers from the Bible. And answers that come through the wisdom of others – in other words process these things out in community.

Here's some questions to chew on. If you're inclined to write out your answers, it only stands to help solidify and reinforce what you believe. As you come together with others, come with some of these thoughts ready to share, bringing your perspective and experience to the table. We can't wait to hear how God might lead you through this journey!

## Questions for Reflection:

- Would you say you are stuck in the starting gate in your faith life, or are you ready to turn things around, or are you returning back to a place where you were previously thriving? How or why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Do you sometimes feel like there's a better way of life out there? How would you like to see your spiritual & emotional life in six months, a year, five years?

- What did your faith look like growing up?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What do you hope to get out of this experience? What one question do you hope to have answered by the end of our time together?

## From the Bible:

We'd love to take a bit to explore a relevant passage from our content this week. Take the time to read this passage, reflect on the questions, and bring some of your thoughts to the next class.

### Read: Luke 15:11-32

- Where do you resonate with the younger son's headstrong decision to go off on his own and make irresponsible and risky choices?

**Faith is trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse. – Philip Yancey**

- What contributed to his moment of deciding to turn around and go home? What do you imagine was happening in his heart / in his head?
- What sticks out to you in the father’s posture and response when the son came home? How would you relate anything you see in him to how you imagine God feels toward you?