



# GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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**Shazam (2019) | Finding Our Way Home | BIBLE STUDY**

Facilitator Note: We encourage facilitators and parents to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week, allowing it to be a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation.

## PRESS START

Home can mean different things to different people. It could be the place where your family lives, where you were born, or the place you go back to for the holidays. Billy had a hard time learning what home meant to him, but he continued searching through the whole movie.

### Where do you call home?

## EQUIP

Throughout all of **Shazam**, Billy Batson is trying to find his way home. At first, he thought home was with his mother. He thought if he could reunite with his mom, everything would be alright...but even this left him disappointed. Billy was handed everything he could have asked for. He was placed in a home with foster parents and siblings who loved him. He was given the ability to turn into a superhero any time he wanted. He can summon lightning, has super strength, and is bulletproof.

Despite all of this, nothing satisfied him. He still searched for something more, even when everyone else was reaching out to help him feel wanted. Every one of us feels like this sometimes. Everyone needs to feel like they belong somewhere, and that is what drove Billy to run. He thought he needed to find a home for himself, when it was right in front of him.

God offers us a home in his family. He wants to adopt us, no matter how many times we run or how bad we are. He accepts us just as we are, but we have to accept him as well. Billy's foster father said, "It's not a home until you call it a home." He knew no matter how welcoming they were, they could not force Billy to feel at home. Billy had to accept the home for himself before he could truly belong.

## LEVEL UP

Start by reading **Luke 15:11-24**.

The son in the story, much like Billy Batson, was searching for something more. He left his home and father to search for fulfillment in things such as pleasure, food, and good company. But in the end, these things left him feeling disappointed, alone, and desperate. He knew he had wronged his father, so he concocted a plan to become his father's servant because he felt unworthy to be his son.

### How does the father react to the son's return?

Not only did the father greet him warmly and throw a party for him, but he ran to greet him before he even got to the house. He was watching and waiting for him eagerly so he could bring him back home. This is the kind of love Billy found with his foster family. He ran away and lied to them about his search for his birth mother, but instead of rejecting him, they went out looking for him to bring him back home. God's gift is always available to us, but we have to be willing to accept it.

The passage says, "A man had two sons." Let's take a minute to look at the older son and read the rest of the passage in **Luke 15:25-32**.

### **Why was the older brother not happy to see his younger brother?**

It would have been easy for the other children in the group home to be angry Billy was brought in. There were already a lot of them, and adding one more would increase the chaos. When he ran away, it would have been easy for the family to decide he was not a good fit and should be moved to yet another home so they would not have to deal with all the baggage that came with him. But no one in the group home did any of that. The parents were willing to let him come back and gave him a stable place to stay. The other children did their best to be good siblings and welcome him.

The older brother in the parable rejected the younger out of jealousy. The father loved them both equally, but the older thought love was conditional based on works. He worked hard to gain a love that was open to him all along, and did not get the full blessing of that love because he was too busy working to earn it.

God invites everyone to be part of his family. If you are already a Child of God, then it is your responsibility to make other people feel at home and accept them into the family of God.

### **MOD**

**What is preventing you from feeling at home in God's family? Remember, as we saw from the older brother, even God's children can feel unwelcome at times.**

**Do you relate more to the older or the younger brother in the story? Why?**

**Think of a way you can help make people feel more welcome at your home church (try to encourage creativity beyond just greeting new people or shaking hands at the door).**

### **PRAY**

**Does anyone have anything we need to pray about?**

Pray and thank God for inviting us into his family unconditionally. Ask Him to help us be the kind of Christian that will make others feel welcome and that nothing we do will drive others away from God's family.

### **THE NEXT LEVEL**

**Romans 8:23b** *"We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us."*

**Galatians 3:26** *"For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus."*

**Ephesians 1:5** *"God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure."*

**Proverbs 3:12** *"For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights."*

**1 Peter 3:8-9** *"Finally all of you should be of one mind. Sympathize with each other. Love each other as brothers and sisters. Be tenderhearted, and keep a humble attitude. Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing."*

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