

The purpose of this folder is to help us to review our own life with an honest and loving eye and be able to recognize the radical changes that need to be happening in our life.

Pointers for Folder 13

In this new phase of our program, we are approaching life's decisions in a new way—always keeping in mind the same goals that the program offers--which is to help individuals in jail talk honestly and frankly, with the help of a facilitator, in a group session—without worrying that his ideas may be off the wall.

In this folder, we base the discussion on the beautiful story of the Prodigal Son by bringing the same story with a modern parallel. It is always good to remember that, in this story, we ourselves are challenged to find our place in it. Are we the father, son, or brother?

If we are the Father—are we willing to forgive the people we love that may have hurt us or disappoint us? Are we ready to accept someone else doing the same to us?

If we are the Brother—are we so jealous of what we think belongs to us, that we are unable to share with others? Do we believe that we're better than others? Do we share with others what we have?

If I am the Son—am I so wrapped up in my own misery that I won't even consider going back? Am I willing to recognize that I have hit my spiritual bottom where I can honestly cry out for help? Will I have the courage on the journey to persevere all the way home—not allowing my pride to convince me to turn around, even though I don't know what may happen?

Only going half way doesn't get us there. We must be capable of truly being honest with ourselves. When these questions are addressed honestly, a transformation may occur—a transformation that can open up a door to a new way of life.