



Table coach's discussion guide

Lesson 001 - Matches

Part 1: Tell Your Story

- When you were a young man what were some of the hot, bright things you were attracted to?
 - Are you a thrill seeker? What's the craziest thing you've ever done?
 - Did you ever get burned?
 - Tell about a time you quit too soon or gave up when you shouldn't have.
- Are you more of a match person or a candle person?
 - Do you tend to burn hot or burn long?
 - Do you move on when things get dull?
 - Have you ever said, "I'm outta here!" when a situation got tough or someone else frustrated you? Was that a good decision or did it turn out to be a mistake?

- **Part 2: Ancient Wisdom**

- Table coach reads the story of the Prodigal Son: Luke chapter 15, verses 11 through 32.
- When the Bible reading is complete, **ask the men these questions for discussion.**

Make sure everyone has a chance to contribute.

- *Which son is the match person? And which one is the candle person?*
- *How about the father? Is he a match person or a candle person?*
- *What caused the prodigal son to begin thinking clearly again?*
 - *A: Need. He burned up all his wealth lighting matches. He had no savings (candle) to buy food when the land went into a famine.*
- *What were some of the emotions the prodigal was feeling as he walked home? Here's one: Shame. What are some others?*
- *When his father welcomed him with open arms, how do you think the prodigal felt?*
- *What do you think of the older brother's reaction to the prodigal's return? How would you react if your brother came limping home from Las Vegas after blowing half the family fortune on gambling, booze and hookers?*
- *Are candle people arrogant and unkind?*
- *Can a match person become a candle person?*
- *In this story the father represents God. Which son does he love more?*
- *Does the prodigal son ever pay a price for his foolishness? If so, what is it?*
- *Who gets the rest of the estate when the father dies (verse 31)?*
- *Let's say the younger son went back to his father a couple of weeks later and said, "Father, give me half the remaining estate." What do you think the father would do? What would you do?*

Part 3: Make it real

- Is a man's worth defined by what he experiences or what he builds? By the fires he lights or the ones that give light to others?
- Is perseverance always the right answer, or is it sometimes better to quit?
- What are your current candles?
 - What are you doing to preserve that fire?
- What are some candles (dreams) you'd like to ignite?
- **The final question:**
 - Do you believe God has called you to light a specific candle (a mission in life)?
 - If so, what is it?
 - Who's helping you get it lit?
 - 2 Timothy 1:6-7 — For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

TOP SECRET

For the Table Coach's Eyes Only
ManTime Session 001 - Matches