

## Interpretive Approach

# The Prodigal Son Labyrinth—Set-Up

### General Set Up:

These work great in actual labyrinths, but a gym or large outside field could work, too.

**IN REAL LABYRINTH:** Set up “Home” at the entrance of the Labyrinth and “From My Desires to God’s” in the middle. Participants will do the “My Desires” on the way to the middle and “God’s Desires” on the way back out.

**OTHER SETTINGS:** Set up “Home” at the entrance to the prayer stations, maybe just inside the room housing the prayer stations. Make a path the weaves or zigzags to other side of room. On far side of room set up “From My Desires to God’s.” They will do the “My Desires” on the way to the far side and “God’s Desires” on the way back out.

You will want to light or tape off the path so they follow it in order.

For each station you will need either a table or area for the station to be set up. Have a divider of some sorts that creates a divide or even a wall between the “My Desires” part and the “God’s Desires” part. Table cloths add a nicer feel, and candles, light instrumental music, and dim lighting are always a great way to set a reflective mood.

**Tips: Have pens available at the main station for them to take with them, but also have a couple at each other station in case they leave or lose theirs along the way.**

**BONUS:** Have small weights, sand bags, something that can be added to youth to weight them down at the first FREEDOM STATION, to be taken off at the second FREEDOM station.

### “HOME—My Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- Paper and pens for the journey
- Car keys
- Maps or brochures to exotic travel places (Las Vegas, Bali, Hawaii, etc.)
- Have fake money in a bag representing the inheritance, maybe a credit card.
- Have the home pictures or other things representing home as a prison or a place that confines them.

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “My Desires” side,
- Set out each of these things in such a way that you see the obviousness of feeling like home is a prison or holding them back and the things together that they are leaving with.
- Have the sign in the middle of the two.

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### “FREEDOM—My Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- Have pictures of the wide open road
- Other things that represent freedom.
- Have a list of rules crossed out or ripped up or both.

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “My Desires” side,
- Set out the pictures with the list of rules scattered around
- Place the sign in the middle

### “LIFE—My Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- Have even more pictures of exotic place
- Have things that represent exotic living, maybe late night movies, “R” or “NA” labels
- Have road maps as the table cloth for this station

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “My Desires” side,
- Set up map on table
- Add in pictures and stuff that represent exotic places and things
- Place the sign in the middle

### “RELATIONSHIPS—My Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- Have pictures of people representing “cool”, this could be celebrities, people driving expensive stuff, try to find some that have other people celebrating their coolness. (You could go so far as to cut out the face of the cool person in the picture and put a small mirror so they could literally see themselves as that person)
- Gold chains or other symbolic small cool items.

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “My Desires” side,
- Place the pictures so that they can really picture themselves as those “cool” people. Maybe put them in picture frames.
- Have other items scattered
- Place the sign in the middle

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### “IDENTITY—My Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- Have new designer clothes with tags on them (Save receipts to return later)
- Have pictures of the newest hottest car
- Have a picture or an actually very large new TV or other electronic items (iPad, etc.)
- Any other items that represent luxury and stuff

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “My Desires” side,
- Have a pile of nicely fold cloths with tags showing
- Electronics set in such a way they are unable to play with
- Pictures and other stuff scattered
- Place the sign in the middle

### “FROM MY DESIRES TO GOD’S—My Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station signs (there are two for this one) large enough for people to read
- Have a very plain, empty table
- If you have a pig trough this would be a good time for it. (If not a trash can will do)

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “My Desires” side,
- Nothing on table.
- Have trough or trash can next to table for them to throw away papers.
- Place the signs in the middle in such a way they read them in order, maybe number them

### “FROM MY DESIRES TO GOD’S—GOD Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- More clean sheets of paper

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “God’s Desires” side,
- Very empty table again, but with clean paper for them to take.
- Place the sign in the middle

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### “IDENTITY—GOD Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- Have several mirrors
- Have Bibles open to the passage

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “God’s Desires” side,
- Still a very simple table
- Have Bibles open to passage
- Place mirrors in such a way they see themselves in several at the same time
- Place the sign in the middle

### “RELATIONSHIPS—GOD Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- Pictures of people who help with the youth group, people in your church, pastors, etc.
- Have 1 mirror
- Have pictures of hands hold each other in a circle other things that represent together

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “God’s Desires” side,
- Place pictures in such a way they feel they are part of this circle of love.
- Have the mirror in the middle of all the pictures
- Place the sign in the middle

### “LIFE—GOD Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- Have symbols that represent different gifts that youth have and even more
  - Sports
  - Music
  - Animal
  - Art
  - Drama
  - (The list should be contextualized to group going through)

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “God’s Desires” side,
- Have all these things all over and around table
- Place the sign in the middle

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### “FREEDOM—GOD Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- If you have one, have the yoke for oxen, if not have pictures of one

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “God’s Desires” side,
- Have the yoke or picture on table
- Place the sign in the middle

### “HOME—GOD Desires”

#### Supplies:

- Print out station sign large enough for people to read
- A “WELCOME HOME” banner
- Party celebration things
- Rings of string

#### Set Up:

- On half of the table representing “God’s Desires” side,
- Set table up like a small surprise party
- Have rings of strings in basket for kids to take
- Place the sign in the middle

### SET UP FOR PARTY

Simply have a big room set up with cake and all party supplies.

Every time each youth comes in from the stations, yell WELCOME HOME like the whole thing was for them.

### SET UP FOR CLOSING

No table or station, just simply read it as you’re closing right at the end of the party