

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Week 2: July 9 & 12

CONTEXT

In Luke 15:1-7, Jesus shares the Parable of the Lost Sheep to illustrate God's joy over the repentance of a sinner and how he pursues us. Just as a shepherd rejoices over finding one lost sheep, there is great rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents, more than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need repentance.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 15:1-7

1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable: 4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

ICE BREAKER

What is the most expensive and/or meaningful thing you have ever lost? Share the story of you searching for it and hopefully finding it.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Luke 15:1-7 as a group.

There were 2 groups of people present when Jesus told this parable:

- People far from God- (Tax collectors, Sinners, and so called outsiders.)
- The Religious People- (Pharisees, Scribes, Teachers of the law, so called insiders)

Which group is Jesus addressing in Luke 15 and what group of people would you belong to? (Be honest)

In the sermon we learned ways we can become pharisaical. Go through the list and share which one you struggle with the most and how is God working on it in your life.

- **Rule focused but heart distant** (quick to correct and slow to show compassion)
- **Judgmental toward outsiders** (us vs them mentality)
- **Image driven spirituality** (care mostly about reputation)
- **Pride in righteousness** (compare themselves to others)
- **Bible knowing but not people loving** (biblical but not Christlike)

According to the sermon and your own thoughts, why did Jesus teach in parables and stories? (1/3 of all of Jesus' teaching is in story form.)

Compare verses 5-7 to Romans 5:6-11.

How does the reaction of the Pharisees and teachers of the law contrast with Jesus' actions toward sinners? How does this challenge your personal reactions towards "sinners" that are different from you?

DISCUSSION CONTINUED

Anytime we read God's Word, especially parables, we need to ask the question, "What does this story teach us about who God is?" As a group, make a list of the attributes of God that are revealed in this story?

What does it mean to "repent"? What's the difference between repenting and apologizing? How does this parable deepen your understanding of repentance?

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

PRAYER (In gender based groups)

*Share praises, answered prayers, and prayer requests. Pray for your heart to be softened towards people far from God even those who choose to pridefully disown and disobey Him. Pray for your ONE by name!

Closing Prayer.(come back together as a group)

God, thank you that you are worthy of our praise and worthy of our whole lives. Give us a heart like the shepherd who went after the 1 sheep that was lost and gone astray. God, may our pride be replaced with humility as we look into the mirror and see a pharisaical heart. Thank you Jesus, for your grace that is always enough. Jesus we trust you & pray in the power of your name, amen.



Join Us As A Group!
Info & Registration [HERE](#)

Available Dates:

Aug. 28/29 | Sept. 11/12

Oct. 23/24 | Nov. 6/7
