

Message-based Study

Connection

When you lose something, like your phone, how do you feel when it's found?

Content

Several of Jesus' parables are about lost things that get found. Sometimes the search for the lost thing or person is very hard or very costly. But the finding ends in rejoicing and celebration.

The heart of man is lost and in need of rescue.

Luke 15:1-2 says: "Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people-even eating with them!"

Jesus hung out with the tax collectors that everyone hated and notorious sinners that everyone looked down on. These people were lost (just like everyone else), but something about Jesus attracted them to him.

1. What would make you more attractive in good ways to the lost people around you?

The Pharisees also were lost and needed to be found. But they were different from the tax collectors and notorious sinners. The Pharisees complained about Jesus, while the notorious sinners listen to him. And the listeners were learners. When the Pharisees said "Clean up your act and God will accept you," Jesus said, "Come as you are!"

2. Here are three ideas that may help us avoid being complainers. How could one of them have helped you in the last few days?

- Be grateful
- Give others the benefit of the doubt
- Be a problem solver.

The heart of God is merciful and bent on rescuing.

3. God is about rescuing. We can be lost physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Think of a time you felt truly lost or injured. How would you describe that?

Read Luke 15:3-6. As our shepherd, God is all about rescuing us. He is coming to save you! To carry you home on his shoulders! And then to start a party of rejoicing.

These verses describe more about God, our Shepherd, and us, the wandering sheep that He searches for and takes care of and gives up how own life to rescue:

Isaiah 53:6

Psalms 23:1

Isaiah 40:11

Ezekiel 34:11-12

John 10:11-14

4. Which of the above verses could speak to you (or maybe someone close to you) when you are feeling intense insecurity or fear?

The heart of heaven is eager and pulling for the lost.

Read Luke 15:7. As a church we are called to rejoice that Jesus has saved us and that he is eager to save everyone else, too. He wants everyone.

5. What might stand in the way of you being accepting of others, giving people the benefit of the doubt, and joining God's search for everyone who is lost?

Revelation 7:17 says: "For the Lamb on the throne will be their Shepherd. He will lead them to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe every tear from their eyes."

6. Are you desperate for the loss?

Commitment

Urge Anyone you Find.

Jesus heals us and gives each person a way back and a new beginning. Church needs to be an accepting place, a hospital, not a country club. We are here to be a light in our community.

7. Who is the one lost sheep that you are praying for, that you want to help be found?



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

This week, **Share** with a person in your life who needs to hear and feel Jesus' love. Begin today with this tool of how to B.L.E.S.S them.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?