



THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

SERMON DISCUSSION NOTES FROM 6/27/21

SERMON SUMMARY

The parable of the lost sheep was written to show us the heart of God. Early in Luke 15, Jesus is criticized for welcoming and eating with “sinners.” This parable demonstrates Jesus’ intention and purpose in doing that. As Luke 19:10 says, Jesus’ mission was to seek and to save the lost. As we see Jesus’ approach to His work in this world, it is very clear that God is committed to pursuing those who are far from Him, and He rejoices with celebration when sinners are restored.

Key Passage: 1 Samuel 30:1-31

Be sure to read this Scripture passage together before you proceed to the “Grow” section of our study.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

KNOW—Spend some time finding out how everyone’s week has gone. The questions in this section provide a guide for connectivity; feel free to approach this part of your group time organically over a meal or “connection” activity or with questions appropriate to your context.

What is one way God is challenging you to trust Him this week?

What are some ways you have experienced God answering your prayers lately?

Who in your life is in need of prayer, physical help, or emotional encouragement right now?

GROW—Grow in the Lord as you engage His Word together.

Read Luke 15:1-4. To whom does Jesus address this parable? Who are the sheep in this parable? Who is the shepherd?

How are we like sheep (Isaiah 53:6)? In what ways have you strayed from the flock in your life?

How did Christ come and find you in your lost state?

Why would a man leave all of his sheep to go find one? What does it cost the shepherd to go and find the lost sheep?

How does this parable demonstrate Jesus’ love for lost people?

How was Jesus’ approach to ministry different than the approach of the scribes and Pharisees?

Read Psalm 23. How is Jesus like a shepherd? List all the things that a shepherd does for his sheep. How does Jesus do that for us?

GO—Talk through ways you can put what you’ve learned into practice.

Jesus set a precedent for how His people should approach ministry with those outside of the church. How are we to be like the shepherd who leaves the comfort of the flock to go for the lost sheep?

What is the obvious answer to the question Jesus asks in verse 4? Do “the lost” mean as much to you as they do to Christ?

In what ways can we as Christians get too comfortable in community with one another and fail to reach the lost around us? How can you be more intentional to build relationships with the lost around you?

