

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.**

## Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

### Message Summary

In Luke 15, we find 3 parables – or stories – told by Jesus to help us understand being lost and being found. The 3 truths that we take away from the first 2 stories found in verses 1-10 are:

1. **We're always getting lost:** That can sound a little harsh, but it's important that we remember that Jesus refers to us as sheep, and sheep need to stay close to the shepherd. Unfortunately, as Isaiah 53:6 tells us, like sheep, all of us tend to wander away from the shepherd at times. But the good news is that we are never left far from God.
2. **The Father is always looking for what's lost:** As bad as it is to be lost, the Big Idea reveals the good news: being lost means that we can be found, and the reason that is true is because we have a Father who never calls off the search party. He is always searching and seeking what is lost, and He takes great care in returning lost sheep to the flock.
3. **The Father is always rejoicing over what's found:** Perhaps the most amazing truth about the God of the search party is that He actually throws parties when the search is over! He isn't a "told you so" kind of Father who needs to point out all the things that we did wrong that caused us to wander from Him. Instead, He's a dad who is full of joy when we are fully restored.

### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Which of your possessions have you recently lost? Recently found?
- Who is in the audience listening to these stories (look in verses 1-2)? What does verse 2 say is the reason that Jesus told these parables?
- How does the parable of the lost sheep relate to the muttering of the Pharisees? What do you think Jesus was saying to them?
- Use some words to describe how you think the woman searched for her lost money?
- Pastor Paul said that how hard we look for things that are lost and how happy we are when we find them are the 2 things that reveal how much (or little) we value lost things. How does this relate to the way the Pharisees resented the fact that Jesus was hanging out with "sinners?" What does their muttering really reveal about what or whom they valued?
- Have you ever wandered from God? How did He bring you back?
- How do these stories make you feel about your value to God? How could these stories affect your relationships with others who wander from the faith?