

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Luke 15:1–7

Lost and Found: A Community of Grace

About This Week's Message:

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three stories that reveal the heart of God toward the lost: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost sons. This week, we focused on the opening of Luke 15, where Jesus confronts a divided crowd—those who were drawing near (the sinners and tax collectors) and those who were muttering (the Pharisees and teachers of the law). Jesus paints a picture of a community built not on religious performance, but on radical grace. His invitation isn't to a religion of rules, but to a family marked by rescue, belonging, and love.

Goals of This Week's Discussion/Study:

This study will help us recognize how deeply we all need grace, and how belonging in the Kingdom of God comes not through achievement, but through His pursuit of us. As we walk through the beginning of Luke 15, we'll explore how the gospel redefines community—and what it means to be part of God's search and rescue mission.

Connections with the 7 Marks of a Jesus Follower:

- **Stand in Awe:** Respond to the extravagant grace of God with gratitude and worship.
 - **Share Your Story:** Join Jesus in His mission to seek and save the lost by sharing your life and His love with others.
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Suggested Starter Questions:

- When you think of the word “lost,” what comes to mind?
 - Have you ever felt like you were on the outside looking in? What helped you find belonging?
 - Why do you think Jesus attracted people that religious leaders avoided?
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Read Luke 15:1–2

"Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'"

Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you about the two groups around Jesus?
 - Why do you think the religious leaders muttered instead of celebrating?
 - How might we unintentionally behave more like the Pharisees than like Jesus?
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Read Luke 15:3–7 (Parable of the Lost Sheep)

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?"

Discussion Questions:

- What does this parable teach us about the heart of God?
 - Why is it significant that the shepherd *leaves* the ninety-nine to go after the one?
 - How does this reshape the way we think about our mission as a church?
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Applying the Text:

What does this passage reveal about the character of God?

Key Takeaway: God relentlessly pursues the lost—not out of obligation, but out of deep love.

What do we learn about ourselves?

Key Takeaway: Everyone is lost without grace—whether through rebellion or religion—and everyone matters deeply to God.

What's the relationship between rescue and rejoicing?

Key Takeaway: Heaven throws a party when one sinner turns back to God. Rescue leads to radical celebration.

Kyle's Challenge:

- Set alarms to pray daily for a heart for the lost.
- Repent for the people we've written off.
- Reflect on God's grace in our own lives.
- Intentionally create space at our tables for those who might feel far from God.

Practical Application:

- Who is "the one" in your life—someone who feels far from God?
 - How can you move toward them this week with intentionality and grace?
 - In what ways might God be calling you to leave your comfort zone to reach the lost?
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Pray:

- Thank God for His relentless pursuit of you when you were lost.
- Ask for His heart for the lost and lonely around you.
- Pray for opportunities this week to reflect His grace and extend His invitation to belong.