



Small Group Study Guide for September 15, 2019

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: We are all lost until Jesus finds us. We wander, we stray, and we end up in the dark corners of life. But Jesus seeks us, goes after us, and brings us home. When that happens, there's a party in heaven! Jesus is still seeking, still finding, still rejoicing as people are welcomed into the Kingdom of God.

Getting Started:

1. It's aggravating when we lose something. What have you lost recently, and did you find it?
2. We know what it means to be physically lost. Either you don't know where you are, or someone looking for you doesn't know where you are. But what does it mean to be spiritually "lost"?

In the Word: Luke 15:1-7

3. What is the setting for this passage? Who is Jesus hanging out with, and who things that's a problem? (vs 1-2)
4. How is Jesus' parable a powerful response to the criticisms he was facing from the "religious leaders"?
5. What happens, in the parable, once the owner of the sheep joyfully returns home with his lost sheep?
6. What happens in heaven when one sinner repents?

Read Luke 15:8-10

7. What steps does the woman take to find her lost coin? It's always risky to "over analyze" a parable, but how might these steps describe more of the nature of God?

8. What does the woman do when she finally finds the coin?

Putting it all Together

9. Jesus was sharply criticized for hanging out with the outcasts, the sinners, and the people that the religious folk wanted to stay away from. What 'kind of people' might fit into those categories in our society today?

10. Do you think Christians are known for hanging out with the people you just described in the previous question? Why or why not?

11. How can the Church celebrate when lost people are found? Have you seen that happen recently?

12. These parables have a dual point for us as the church today. First, we need to join Jesus on His mission to seek and save the lost. That is the goal of the Christian Church, and we can be praying that all of us play some role in helping bring people to God. The Second point, is that we all remember that we were/are the lost sheep, and the lost coin, and that God pursues us and seeks us out. Why is it so important to remember that second point?

Prayer: Ask God to give us a heart that seeks after the stray, the lonely, the outcast, and the lost. Thank the Lord for finding us and bringing us back into His fold, where we rejoice with the angels as others are welcomed home.

Next Week – Pray for Whom?: St. Paul asks us to pray as the people of God. That's all nice and good. And then he mentions some specific people to pray for, and we think – really?