

HEART OF A SHEPHERD

Life Group discussion guide, week 6

KEY PASSAGES:

Luke 15:1-22 (lost sheep, lost coin, lost son)

Luke 15:20-24 So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

John 2:19 "Destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days."

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 10:10-11 "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

Romans 5:6-8 When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 3:23 All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 6:23 The wages of sin is death...

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Luke 15:24 "This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

QUESTIONS:

1. How was your Easter weekend? What things did you do that made it memorable / meaningful?
2. Talk about one thing in this 'Heart of a Shepherd' series that has been challenging / impactful to you personally, and why.
3. Share a time in your life where something critical was lost, and you put everything else on hold to look for it.
4. Jesus told three parables about something lost being searched for and found--a sheep, a coin and a son, all of which represented the most valuable and treasured things one could possess in that culture. What things might Jesus tell parables about if he was speaking in America today?
5. A key point in the parable of the lost son comes when we're told the son hits rock bottom and "he came to his senses".. which is ultimately what makes his restoration possible. Do you have a time in your life where you experienced this?
6. Read Luke 15:20-24 above, where we see the picture of the son, still stinking like pigs, heading home to the father and community he had disgraced and disowned. Three questions accordingly:
 - a. What do we know has changed about the son at this point in the story?
 - b. How would you describe the Father (a picture of God) based on this description?
 - c. Talk about the parallel between this passage and Romans 5:6-8 above.