

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of August 15, 2021

Jesus Stories: Parables For People Like Us

Looking For the Lost, Luke 15:1-10

Pastor Temple- 8:30 & 10:30 Traditional, Pastor Hall- 10:30 Contemporary Service

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share about personal events or faith experiences since you last met?

- Are there joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- **Opening Discussion Question-** Would you mind sharing a time when someone really helped you out when you were lost? Lost can be taken literally or metaphorically.... What was your experience or feelings like before and afterwards?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the scriptures from this week's sermon message and then discuss the questions which follow as time allows. There are more questions than you will have time for, so it is ok to be selective.

Luke 15:1-10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "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? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'

⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. ⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

1. If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
2. In verse three, parable or “para-bole” means “to set alongside.” Pastor Michelle mentioned an old definition of parable was “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.” What do you think is the strength of teaching through the use of stories or parables like this one?
3. How is the setting of this parable significant (see verses 1-2)? How did Pharisees and teachers of the law understand how they were to please God? Why would they have trouble with Jesus being with tax collectors and sinners?
4. In the parable of the lost sheep and lost coin, how did Jesus challenge their understandings of what pleases God?
5. How do you respond to the statements by Pastor Temple? “People may like the Lord, but not like us, because they know we don’t like them either...[but] caring for the lost is our calling and our joy.”

Other Related Reading (10 min)

1. Would a volunteer please read aloud Matthew 9:9-13.
2. In a similar setting, Jesus offers another explanation as to why he is with tax collectors and sinners in verse 12. What does this metaphor reveal about Jesus’ identity and role?
3. How does verse 13, a reference to Hosea 6:6, challenge the pharisees and teachers of the law as well as Christians today?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

1. As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
2. If the pharisees and teachers of the law’s concept of holiness kept them from associating with lost people, what is it that you believe keeps us Christians from associating with lost people today?
3. Pastor Temple mentioned that “lost people matter to God... lost people must matter to us too... [and] we want our neighbors to know Jesus.” How would we rate our degree of concern for lost people on a scale from 1-10?
4. What do you think it would take for us to grow in our concern for lost people?

Witness and Closing (10 minutes)

- How might God be calling us to grow in ways that we offer help to lost people? In what ways can we help them find their way home?

- A volunteer may conclude by leading the group in prayer about the joys and concerns shared earlier in the meeting