



## LOST & FOUND!

**Luke 15:3-10**

*“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”*

**Luke 19:10**

## PRAY

- Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises
- Open with a time of prayer giving thanks to God

## OPEN

- What is something of value that you lost? Did you ever find it?
- When was a time you ever became separated or lost from a family member or group? (If you're a parent have you ever “lost” a child in the mall, amusement park, etc.?)
- Imagine for a moment that you had a loved one (child, parent, spouse, etc.) lost in the jungles of the Amazon or in a raft out on the open sea. How would you react? What thoughts and feelings would you experience?

## READ

- Luke 15:1-10

## REFLECT

Author and church leader Reggie McNeal writes that “The North American church is suffering from severe mission amnesia. It has forgotten why it exists. We must rescue the concept of evangelism from the realm of the ‘special’ and the ‘occasional,’ and anchor it where it belongs as the essential, on-going life and witness of the church.”

(Reggie McNeal, *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church*)

- Who first invited you to church?
- Have a couple of group members share briefly on how they came to know Jesus Christ.

# ***Lost & Found: Lessons on God's radical love for the lost***

## **Radical: rad-i-cal**

- 1) of or going to the root or origin; fundamental: as in “*a radical change*”
- 2) Forming a basis or foundation; the root or base of something
- 3) Thoroughgoing or extreme; strong convictions

## **Lesson One**

Re-read Luke 15:3-7

- What does this passage teach us about God's radical love?
- What do you think it means to be spiritually lost (a lost sheep)?
- Describe a time in your life when you knew you were lost spiritually—how did Christ find you?
- What images of God's love from this passage stand out to you? How could they minister to lost people?

## **Lesson Two**

Re-read Luke 15:8-10

- What does this passage teach us about our attitude and approach to lost people?
- Are you ready and willing to be like this woman in searching for the lost? Why or why not?
- What does this passage teach us about our radical mission to reach lost people?

## **Apply the lessons**

Look over the following results from a survey by “**The Institute for American Church Growth.**” The survey asked over 10,000 people the following question: “*What was responsible for your coming to Christ and this church?*” Their replies were:

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| • I attended a special meeting or event | 0.5% |
| • I had a special need                  | 2.5% |
| • I liked the programs                  | 3%   |
| • I just walked in and visited          | 4%   |
| • I liked the Bible classes             | 5%   |
| • I liked the pastor                    | 6%   |
| • A friend or relative invited me       | 79%  |

The primary point of this survey is this: If churches are to grow, ***it will be through the efforts of individual members.*** Preachers, programs, and classes may help, but in most cases they will only maintain the size of the congregation. The fact remains, ***the greatest potential of growth lies within each person*** and his or her ability to connect and relate to others outside the church. Each one must reach one!

- How can your small group better encourage and challenge each member to reach out to a lost friend, relative, neighbor, or co-worker?
- Close in prayer for each other regarding your witness and reaching the lost. Pray specifically for lost friends, relatives, neighbors, and co-workers.

**NOTE:** There will be an elective Wednesday night study called ***Just Walk Across the Room*** coming up: This four-week study is designed to equip and inspire you to walk across the room—leaving your circles of comfort and extending hands of care, compassion, and inclusiveness to people who might need a touch of God's love today! October 21—November 11 7:00PM in the Atrium