

**Lost Series:
Session Three**

Small Group Study

**October
25-31**



**CALLING THE
LOST HOME**

Luke 15:11-32

PRAY

- Begin with a few moments of sharing thanks and praises in prayer

OPEN

- Where is home for you? (Wichita, Kansas or some other city and state)
- Why is the idea of “home” important to you?
- As people of faith, why is the concept of home important to us?

READ

- **Luke 15:11-32**

William Barclay the great Scottish pastor and teacher once said, “There is no chapter of the New Testament so well known and so dearly loved as the 15th chapter of Luke’s gospel. It has been called ‘the gospel in the gospel,’ as if it contained the very distilled essence of the good news which Jesus came to tell. There is a wondrous thought here. It is the truly tremendous truth that God is kinder than humanity. The ‘religious’ would write off the tax-collectors and the sinners as deserving of nothing but destruction; not so with God. We may give up hope of a sinner; not so with God. God loves the folk who never stray away; but in his heart there is joy of joys when a lost one is found and comes home.”

Pastor and writer Timothy Keller states: “If the teaching of Jesus is likened to a lake, this famous Parable of the Prodigal Son would be one of the clearest spots where we can see all the way to the bottom. In it I have discovered the secret heart of Christianity. I have seen more people encouraged, enlightened, and helped by this passage, than by any other text.

Now let’s take some time to study and reflect on this powerful Bible story of: ***Calling the lost home!***

The Lost Younger Son

- In your own words describe the younger son.
- In what ways was this younger son (the prodigal) lost?
[Note: The word ***prodigal*** does not simply mean “wayward;” instead it means to be “recklessly spendthrift, recklessly extravagant, and having spent everything.”]
- What does this passage and the sermon teach us about the younger son’s actions and attitudes? (Note: sins of COMMISSION)
- Have you ever left “home” and found yourself lost and in a “distant country”? How did you get back home?
- In what ways can you be like the younger son (a prodigal) now?

The Lost Elder Son

- In your own words describe the elder son.
- In what ways was the elder son lost?
- What does this passage and the sermon teach us about the elder son’s actions and attitudes? (Note: sins of OMISSION)
- In what ways can you be like the elder son?

The Father Who Calls Them (and us) Home

- In your own words describe the father.
- What does this passage and the sermon teach us about the actions and attitudes of the father (our Heavenly Father)?
- What does this passage and sermon teach us about the importance of HOME?
Home is where we discover that we are uniquely and completely loved. Home is where we can let go of all comparison, competition, rivalry, and truly be ourselves. Home is where we find unlimited and unconditional love, and where we find hope. Home is not so much a place, as it is being in the presence of the Heavenly Father.
- What does this passage and the sermon teach us about OUR call to be like the father?
- How can your group better function as a “home” to lost people? How can your group act like the father and call people home?

PRAY

- Pray for the lost. Pray that each person in your group would reach out to lost people.

REMEMBER our Wednesday night study called ***Just Walk Across the Room***
October 21—November 11 7:00PM in the Atrium