

Vision & Mission

Key Scriptures

Luke 15:1-7 Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. ² And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So He spoke this parable to them, saying:

⁴ "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? ⁵ "And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

⁶ "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'

⁷ "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

Luke 16:9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.

Key Point:

Jesus always had people on His mind because He *knew the Father's heart*, and knew eternal certainties better than anyone else.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- What would be one thing that is always on your mind? Do you have any friends that you could easily answer that question for? (don't mention their name)

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Read Luke 15:1-32 together in your group. Why do you think the Tax Collectors and Sinners were attracted to Jesus?

In vv.3-7, do you think there are any "righteous persons who need no repentance?"

What do these three parables teach us about God?

- In Luke 16:9 Jesus gives us what seems at first to be an odd command. What do you think Jesus is saying? Why does He command this?
- What were the two main reasons why Jesus always had people on His mind?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- How does it make you feel that heaven rejoices over a single sinner who repents? Who do you think is doing the rejoicing in heaven? Why?
- Does a lost sheep know it is lost? Does a sinner know he needs to repent? When did you first understand your need to repent?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- Pray that God would give you insight into how much He cares about lost people, so that you would develop the same kind of heart toward them. Ask Him to show you creative ways to pursue the lost, the hurting, and those who don't realize their severe need for the gospel.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- When is the last time you went out of your way to show a non-Christian that you valued them? Make plans to spend time with someone and have a purposeful conversation about spiritual truths.