

WEEK 1 TOUGH PARABLES DISCUSSION GUIDE

This guide is a suggestion; Adjust as needed to fit your group. Don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. Let the students and the Holy Spirit guide the conversation, too.

THE MAIN POINT

Jesus values the lost sheep
and we should too.

THE MAIN SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-10

GET THEM TALKING

- What is your favorite story of all time (book, movie, etc.)?
- What is your favorite Bible story?

READ Luke 15:1-10 and answer the following questions:

1. Jesus values the sheep that never wander off.

- What do you find most challenging or unclear about this passage of Scripture?
- Why would Jesus compare us to sheep? Isn't that insulting, or are there some good qualities about sheep? Explain.

2. Jesus values the one lost sheep.

- Why would this sheep—or any other sheep, for that matter—leave the safety and protection of the sheepfold?
- Give examples of life distractions that can wind up getting us lost.
- Why is there so much joy in finding one lost sheep?

3. Jesus values you.

- Tell us about a time you searched passionately, even frantically, to find something you lost. Why was that item meaningful enough to justify that kind of search?
- Look at verses 8-10. How does it feel to know Jesus pursues you personally, like this woman searched for her lost coin?
- In what ways has Jesus pursued you? Be as specific as possible.
- How do you know it was Jesus pursuing you?

NEXT STEPS

- How can your actions show that Jesus values you?
- How can you help other people discover how much Jesus loves them—and how he's searching for them and wanting a friendship with them, too?

Have everyone come up with one tangible step they want to take this week to show the lost sheep around them Jesus' love and share it with the group.

PRAYER GUIDE

We'll close our time tonight by praying for the lost sheep. Someone open in prayer, then leave a time of silence for each person to share the initials of one or more students they are praying would begin a relationship with Jesus. Someone close the prayer by asking God to show how each of you can pursue the lost sheep in your life and reflect Jesus to them.