



The Shepherd Who Seeks the Lost

March 1, 2026

Luke 15:1-7

Main Point

Jesus pursues the lost with compassion and joy. His followers join Him in seeking those far from God.

Part 1: Master Teacher (10 Minutes)

Introduction

What usually comes to mind when you think about people who are far from God, and how might Jesus see them differently?

Lostness moves the heart of Jesus. The parable of the lost sheep shows how deeply God cares for every person far from Him.

Biblical Teaching

1. Jesus Welcomes Sinners (v. 1-2)
 - Jesus draws near to the rejected.
 - The religious leaders resisted this.
 - God's love seeks the broken.
2. Jesus Pursues the One Who Is Lost (v. 3-5)
 - The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to seek the one.
 - Lostness leads to danger and separation.
 - Jesus rescues with tenderness.
3. Heaven Celebrates When the Lost Are Found (v. 6-7)
 - God rejoices over one sinner who repents.
 - Salvation is a celebration.
 - We join heaven in rejoicing.

Takeaway

- If the heart of Jesus is to seek the lost, the heart of His people should be the same.

Part 2: Group Discussion (25 minutes)

Facilitator Guidance

- Keep the focus on compassion, not guilt or pressure.

Discussion Questions

1. Seeing the Lost as Jesus Does

- What stands out to you about Jesus' heart in this parable?
- How does this change the way you see people around you?
- What prevents us from seeing the lost with compassion?

2. Joining Jesus in the Search

- Who is someone God has placed on your heart?
- What does pursuing the lost with love look like?
- What step can you take toward them this week?

3. Heaven's Joy in Salvation

- Why does salvation bring such joy to heaven?
- How can we celebrate life change more intentionally?
- How does joy motivate evangelism?

4. Reflecting the Shepherd's Heart

- What habits help you grow a heart for the lost?
- Where do you struggle with judgment instead of compassion?
- How can you reflect Jesus more clearly this week?

Next Steps & Call to Action (5 minutes)

Facilitator Closing Thought:

Jesus pursues the lost with relentless love. When we embrace His heart, we join heaven in its joy.

Action Step:

Identify one lost person and pray for them daily this week while taking one relational step forward.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for compassion.
- Pray for boldness to pursue the lost.
- Pray for salvation in our community.