



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Series Theme: Stories of Jesus

Text for the Week: Luke 15:1-7

Message for the Week: The Lost Sheep

Week Three
Sunday, July 3

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

Did you ever lose one of your pets? How did that go?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Luke 15:1-7](#) out loud.

[Clicking this link will bring you to multiple translations.]

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, take note of, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

Have you ever been (physically) lost? (or) Have you ever wandered from the faith? Share the story. What did it feel like to be lost? What was it like to be found?

Whom would we label “unclean” today? How do we treat these people?

Why is it so hard for us to accept people who do not look like us, talk like us, dress like us, or think like us?

What does it mean to you to be forgiven? Why is “being forgiven” so important? Why is it important for us to forgive others?

What is the best celebration you have ever been a part of? What was being celebrated?

Have you ever been part of a celebration for someone who’s been (spiritually) found?

“Try It!”

Gather a group of believers (family, friends) and have a celebration/remembrance of your baptisms or your “coming to faith.” Be creative!

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Pray this prayer together:

Father, we all like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and you laid on Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the iniquity of us all. Thank you for sending Jesus on a search and rescue mission for us; thank you that we have been found through no effort of our own, and are being carried home by our faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

Father, open our eyes to the plight of other sheep hiding behind the rocks and crevices of life. Equip us for search and rescue and send us to find and minister to those who are lost. Use us in the building of your Kingdom.

In the name of Jesus our Teacher and Rabbi, Amen.

Missional/Spiritual Practice for the Month: Eating and Drinking with Others

During the month of July, you are encouraged to “celebrate” with people that you don’t know very well (Luke 15). It could be with a neighbor, a classmate, or a co-worker. Invite someone to join you for Wednesdays on the Lawn. Celebrate the birth of our nation, the sunshine and warm weather, an anniversary, National Slurpee Day (7-11), or just being neighbors. Eat at a restaurant close to your house, in your backyard or driveway, or at a nearby park. Be open to meeting and getting to know new people. Experiment with different ways to celebrate.