



RESOURCES FOR GROUPS

TITLE: The Extraordinary Worth of the Individual

DATE: April 25, 2021

PASSAGE: Luke 15

SPEAKER: Pastor Brian Berg

COMMUNITY BUILDING:

- What's the most important thing you've ever lost? Did you find it again?
- Share about something you recently lost and then found. How did you feel?

CHRIST-CENTERED DISCUSSION:

Bold indicates zoom friendly OR to be used with spiritual growth partners. *Italicized green text is the leader guide.*

- What opportunities did you have this week to be neighborly?
Keep checking in on the actions steps that your group members commit to each week. Celebrate the wins, even when they are small victories. Praise God for his strength in helping you be neighborly this past week. Ask God for continued grace in areas where progress is still desired.
- In Luke 15:1-2, who are drawn to Jesus and who are scandalized by him? Why?
- In the parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin, what did the owner leave to look for the lost? What does this say about the value of the lost thing?
- **Which character is pictured as God in each of these parables? What do we learn about him?**
He has a heart for, is seeking and welcoming the lost. He displays his goodness, grace, boundless mercy, and abundant love towards sinners. He sees each person as infinitely valuable and deeply loved.
- Who do the lost sheep, lost coin, lost sons represent? How does this make you feel about your value to God?
- Put yourself in the place of the father in the story of the lost son. What offenses against himself and God had the son committed? What did he need to overlook or forgive in order to embrace his son?
- **How have you experienced God as father as represented in the parable of the lost son?**
- What does Jesus want to teach the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law (and us) in Luke 15: 25-31?
- **Make a "not giving up on" list as a group. Have each person mention the name of someone they want to give up on, but have decided to stay engaged with. As a group, pray through this list by name.**
Sometimes it can make us weary to keep praying for the same person's salvation or return to God. As an added exercise, have members exchange their "not giving up on" name with another person in the group to pray for throughout the week at a specific time or during a specific activity (brushing your teeth, making breakfast, folding laundry, driving to work, etc...).

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING:

- Visit the resource page on our website to find ideas on how to Faithfully Follow Jesus this week. [Go there](https://woodlandchurch.org/resources/) individually, as a group, or both! Spur each other on to love and good deeds. (Here's the new url: <https://woodlandchurch.org/resources/>)