



Good News **for all people.**

The Gospel of Luke

Week 14 Discussion Questions

Week of 1/8/23

Text: Luke 15

Icebreaker: Have you ever lost something of great value, but later found it? What happened?

1. The setup for this chapter is described in verses 1-2, but look back at verses 25-35 of the previous chapter to note the significance of what's happening. Why are the religious authorities grumbling?

Application: Do you think a similar attitude can exist today among us where we might want to keep our distance from "sinners?" Explain.

2. What common elements or themes can you see in the two parables described in verses 3-7 and 8-10? What do these two indicate about the character of God?

Application: When you think of God's attitude toward you, does it clash with these parables or is it consistent with them? Describe what you mean.

3. Verses 11-32 flow naturally from the previous two parables, yet they stand out as some of the most well-known of Jesus's words, period! How would you summarize the message of the parable, and how do you think this parable is meant to address the people and the situation described back in verses 1-2?

Application: Why do you think this parable is "famous?" What does it communicate that we find so compelling or intriguing?

4. How would you describe the actions or attitudes of the three major characters (i.e., the father, the younger son, the older son)?

Application: Describe how well you can relate to the three characters, but especially to the two brothers. Does one feel particularly "natural" for you?

5. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him." How do these words and the father's other words and actions in verses 22-24 help depict the gospel message?

Application: Does this parable clarify, reshape, or otherwise influence how you understand God's work of grace in your own life? Explain.

Building Christ-centered communities of people fully devoted to loving God and loving others.

6. Celebration happens at the end of each of this chapter's three parables. Why do you think Jesus includes celebration after each "finding," and what does this say about the value of lost people (a.k.a., unbelievers) to God? What does it say about how we too should think about lost people?

Application: Who do you know who's currently "lost" spiritually who you pray for that they would be found and celebrated over in both heaven and on earth?