

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 19, 2008

Passage: Luke 15:1-10

Memory Passage: Isaiah 53:6

TODAY: *From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?*

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 15:1-2.** Who are the different groups of people mentioned in this passage? Why would Luke mention that there were tax collectors **and** sinners (Luke 5:30; 7:34)?
- (b) What was the job of the tax collector, and for whom did he work (Luke 19:1-10)? What would be a modern day example of this type of person?
- (c) Have you ever been taken advantage of? Have you ever benefited at another's expense?
- (d) What was it that the tax collectors and sinners were doing? Why do you think that they were coming to Jesus (Rev. 22:17)? What is it about Jesus that draws *you* to Him?
- (e) *Family:* Read Luke 15:1. Talk about tax collectors. What kind of people do you think they would be? What kind of people did Jesus reach out to? How are you like those people? Talk about what drew/draws you to Jesus. Pray for some people that you wish to see drawn to Jesus.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 15:1-2.** What is the response of the Pharisees when they see all of the tax collectors and sinners drawing near to Jesus? Why do you think they responded in this way (Luke 18:10-12)?
- (b) What does it mean to “grumble”? What do you think makes a person have a grumbling spirit? What are some things that have caused you to grumble the past couple of weeks?
- (c) Read Phil. 2:14-16. Why does Paul say that we are not to grumble or argue? How is our innocence affected when we grumble and argue?
- (d) What did Jesus do with the tax collectors and sinners? How is this a model for us? How can we practice this same thing?
- (e) What prevented the Pharisees from receiving sinners and eating with them? What are some barriers that you have that keep you from reaching out to those who sin?
- (f) *Family:* Read Phil. 2:14-16. Why is it that we are to do things without grumbling? How can we do all things without grumbling? How can we hold fast to the word of life? Pray that the Lord will give you a thirst for His word.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 15:3-4.** To whom does Jesus address this parable? Who are the sheep in this parable? Who is the shepherd?
- (b) How are we like sheep (Isaiah 53:6)? What has caused you to stray from the flock in your life? How did Christ come and find you?
- (c) Why would a man leave all of his sheep to go find one? What does it cost the shepherd to go and find the lost sheep?
- (d) How are we to be like the shepherd who leaves the comfort of the flock to go for the lost sheep? What kind of comfort zones do you have?
- (e) What is the obvious answer to the question Jesus asks? How can you be like a shepherd of men? Who is someone that you need to go and rescue?
- (f) *Family:* Read Psalm 23. How is Jesus like a shepherd? List all the things that the shepherd does for his sheep. Read Luke 15:3-4. How can we be like the shepherd in this passage? Pray for someone that needs to know our Good Shepherd.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Luke 15:5-7.** What action does the shepherd take when he finds the sheep? How does the shepherd carry the sheep? How is this a picture of what Jesus does for us? When has Jesus carried you?
- (b) What emotion does the shepherd have when he finds his lost sheep? Did the sheep do anything in this passage? Have we done anything to merit his salvation? How does this affect how you see yourself and others?

(c) What does the shepherd immediately do when he returns home? Why is this so important? What attitude does the shepherd have toward the sheep? How is this different from the grumbling and complaining of the Pharisees?

(d) What is the main idea of this parable?

(e) *Family*: Read Luke 15:3-7. Talk about who the sheep and the shepherd represent. Why is the shepherd so excited when the lost sheep is found? Spend some time talking about people that you have seen saved and thanking God for saving them.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Luke 15:8-10.** A silver coin (a drachma) was worth about a day's labor. How does the woman respond when she loses one of them?

(b) What does the woman do to find the coin? Have you ever lost something that was very valuable to you? What did you do to find it?

(c) What motivated the woman to find the coin? What motivates us to go and share the gospel? Why are we not motivated like the woman was to share the gospel?

(d) What does the woman do when the coin is found? Why does she call others to rejoice with her?

(e) *Family*: Read Luke 15:8-10 and Luke 19:10. For what valuable item would you turn your whole house upside down? How is this a picture of what God has done in sending His Son? Why does the woman call other people to rejoice with her? Why is it that we want to share our joy with others? Pray that you can share the joy of your salvation with someone else.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Luke 15:1-10. These are two stories about lost things. How is a sheep lost? How does one lose a coin? Pray about how you might have wandered away or misplaced your priorities. What has God been telling you? Thank God that he is pursuing us in the midst of our wanderings and misaligned priorities.

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Parables of Lost Things
"Rejoice! For what was lost is found!"