



## Study Guide – Sunday 9 May 2021

### Please Read Luke 15

The 3 parables in Luke 15 are set as a response to the grumbling of the Scribes and Pharisees, represented in the last parable by the 'elder son.' The parables reveal God's compassionate heart for the lost, his desire to find and recover them, and his joy at their recovery. His heart and attitude are held up as a mirror to allow the Scribes and Pharisees to see the contrast and repent from their own hard-hearted lostness.

1. Why do you think the tax collectors and sinners gathered around Jesus?
2. What can we learn from Jesus about being a 'friend of sinners' without compromising on sin or compromising his message of repentance?

#### The Parable of the Searching Shepherd

3. What's your own experience of wandering into lostness, and being found and lovingly carried by God back to recovery?
4. How does God's joy at the recovery of the repentant wanderer impact you?

#### The Parable of the Searching Woman

5. God's search for the lost (pictured by the searching woman) is careful and diligent. How does this - or perhaps how should this - affect our mission to the lost?

#### The Parable of the Forgiving Father and the 2 Lost Sons

6. How is the extravagant nature of the Father's mercy and forgiveness shown so powerfully in this parable?
7. What is Jesus' message to those who consider themselves (or whom others consider) too far gone from God? And how do we best represent God's heart and mission in this regard?
8. Jesus is continually holding up a mirror to the Scribes and Pharisees to have them compare their heart and attitude with God's. But there is also **hope** for them! How does the father in the parable represent God's desire for their repentance and recovery?
9. How do you need to respond to these parables?