

# The Joy of Reaching Out

**Luke 15:1-10**  
*Pastor Paul Springer*

## Personal Connection (25 minutes)

### Icebreaker

Think of a time in your life when you lost something of great value. Did you take the time to search for it, or did you just forget about it and move on? Chances are you're probably like most of us, and made a careful search until you found it.

Q. How did you feel when you found what you were searching for?

### Review Last Sunday's *What Now*

Last week we prayed for God to show us our "placement in the harvest" and that he would give us a "harvest partner."

Q. Has God led you to a specific place to reap the harvest? Is there someone you feel led to partner with in the harvest? Perhaps someone in your LIFE Group would be a good "harvest partner."

### Ups and Downs

How did it go last week? Share with the group some of your highs and lows, and offer praise to God for the doors that he has opened.

### Sharing Christ

Make the most out of every opportunity given; what could possibly be worse than to be a lost person that has no idea of their need for Jesus? Remember, you yourself were once lost, and someone shared the gospel with you!

Q. How would your life look if no one took the opportunity to share Christ with you?

Q. Did you have an opportunity to share Christ with someone this week? If so, how did it go?

### Praying for each other

Reflect on the questions above and share with the group. Take some time now and appoint someone in the group to pray for spiritual strength and guidance to grow in areas of vulnerability.

## Digging Deeper (25 minutes)

### **This Week's Key Concept:**

**When we reach out with the Gospel, we give ourselves the opportunity to share the very joy of heaven.**

## Read Luke 15:1-10

Many Christians live their lives as though they are in a bubble, and shield themselves from the world outside their sphere. This may be a comfortable way to live, but it is actually counterintuitive to our call of following Jesus Christ. Notice in the passage that Jesus doesn't just talk to the sinners, but instead, he sits down to a meal with them. Jesus is going deeper, and by sharing a meal, they are building relationships.

Q. What's keeping you in your bubble? Is it a fear of rejection, inadequacy, too comfortable, or are you weary?

Note: Luke 15:6-7 and 9-10 both refer to the rejoicing that heaven has and people have when what is lost is found.

Q: How have you experienced joy in seeing God move in people's lives? How can we increase our joy in God's great work?

Consider this: in your personal circumstances at home, the comfort of **your** bubble might include only you. Someone in your own home might be a lost coin.

Q. We all have someone familiar to us who is lost from God. Who is the lost coin in your life? Allow your LIFE Group members to be an encouragement and offer advice, on how to find your lost coin.

The value of any item is specific to one's need for it. The rarer the jewel, the higher the price. Likewise, God is showing us we should put more value on those who are lost, than those who are in the bubble with us.

## Impact Questions

Q. How much value do you place on your loved ones who do not know Christ?

Q. Are you willing to step out in faith (more often), and tell someone the truth about their value, in the eyes of our Savior?

**Note: Stepping-out of what is comfortable does not always require you to make drastic changes. Obedience is measured, not just in large steps, but in the small actions you take in your daily life. Imagine how large and fruitful the Kingdom could become, if you took small actions, while keeping Christ as the cornerstone of your heart! Trust that the Lord will equip you, because every single one of us is made in his image, including his lost sheep. That means, not only will he equip you because he gave you special gifts, not unlike himself, but he breathed part of his soul into us, and that soul desires to be reunited to the Father. Every lost sheep counts!!!**

## What now? (20 minutes)

This week, pray that God would help you to pop the bubble that surrounds you. Step out into the world boldly with the message of Jesus' saving grace and share with everyone you meet! Pray that you would value those who are lost the same way that God does. **Go and take joy** in being part of God's saving plan in the world around you!

**Matthew 5:15 (NLT): "No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house."**

## Closing Prayer (15 minutes)

Please share your prayer requests and praises, so that your LIFE Group may lift you up, in neighborly affection.

Please pray for expanding Christ's Kingdom through your relationships, in our congregation, to the community, and in distant places.