

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. Luke 15:4-7

Go After

You know sheep are not the smartest of animals, don't you? Yes, that's what I understand. **Do you know why I have compared you to a sheep?** Yes, I think so. **Tell me how you compare favorably with a sheep.** That's a funny way to put it. I don't like to think that I'm like a sheep. **Why is that?** A sheep is pretty dumb and defenseless. They have a tendency to wander off into trouble and get bruised and battered as a result. **Yes, they certainly do. But you've done all that haven't you.** Yes, I've wandered away from you into danger. I've allowed myself to be hurt by the consequences of my bad and sinful choices. I've known what it is like to be off alone by myself crying out just like a sheep. Did my crying out to you sound at all like the bah of a sheep? **Yes, quite similar actually. Wasn't that like a little object lesson for you?** Yes, in those moments I felt very sheepish. **You felt more than that, didn't you?** Yes, I felt lost and without hope. **That was a good place to be.** Why is that? **It showed you that you needed me, didn't it?** Yes, in that place all my independence, stubbornness, and pride was set aside because I was in desperate need. **Yes, you were. It's a good thing the story did not end there, isn't it?** Yes, it is.

Tell me what you think happened. When I was wandering off into the world, you were pursuing me. When I thought I was all alone, you were right there. You were watching and waiting for just the right moment when I'd had enough of the world and was ready to turn away from it to give my life to you. **Yes, I was. What happened next?** I asked forgiveness for all my sin and bad choices. I said I was sorry. I told you that I wanted to follow you and leave my old life behind. **Yes, you did. What did it do for you?** You forgave, cleansed and healed me. You put me on your shoulders and carried me. You brought me into a time and place where you refreshed, revived, and restored my soul. You allowed me to drink deeply of your kindness, mercy and love. I was able to feast on your word. You changed my heart and mind and desires as your Holy Spirit worked your word into my life. **Yes, you're right about all of this. I'd like to ask you a question.** Go ahead.

What about now? What is now the desire of your heart? I want to know you. I want to be like you. I want to join you in what you are doing. **What do you think that is?** You are a good shepherd who came to seek and save the lost. **Yes, I am. Would you like to join me in that work?** Yes, Lord I would. **Then you will. You will go after the lost and feed my sheep.** Yes, Lord I will.

Lord, I was off by myself, stubbornly wandering in a life of sin. My life was a mess. I was bruised and battered. You left heaven to find and save me. Thank you for rescuing me and carrying me back to you so I could live a new life. Amen

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

NIV

Luke 15:4-7

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

NLT

Luke 15:4-7

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

"Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

NRSV

Luke 15:4-7

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

What man of you, if he has a hundred sheep and should lose one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness (desert) and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his [own] shoulders, rejoicing. And when he gets home, he summons together [his] friends and [his] neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my sheep which was lost. Thus, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one [especially] wicked person who repents (changes his mind, abhorring his errors and misdeeds, and determines to enter upon a better course of life) than over ninety-nine righteous persons who have no need of repentance.

AMP

Luke 15:4-7

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

"What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? "When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' "I tell you that in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

NASB

Luke 15:4-7

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

ESV

Luke 15:4-7

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

"What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!' I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

NKJV

Luke 15:4-7

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

"Suppose one of you had a hundred sheep and lost one. Wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you found it? When found, you can be sure you would put it across your shoulders, rejoicing, and when you got home call in your friends and neighbors, saying, 'Celebrate with me! I've found my lost sheep!' Count on it—there's more joy in heaven over one sinner's rescued life than over ninety-nine good people in no need of rescue.

MSG

Luke 15:4-7

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

"If you had a hundred sheep and one of them strayed away and was lost in the wilderness, wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine others to go and search for the lost one until you found it? And then you would joyfully carry it home on your shoulders. When you arrived you would call together your friends and neighbors to rejoice with you because your lost sheep was found. "Well, in the same way heaven will be happier over one lost sinner who returns to God than over ninety-nine others who haven't strayed away!

TLB

Luke 15:4-7

Parables*The Lost Sheep*

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep but loses one of them. Then he will leave the other ninety-nine sheep in the open field and go out and look for the lost sheep until he finds it. And when he finds it, he happily puts it on his shoulders and goes home. He calls to his friends and neighbors and says, 'Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep.' In the same way, I tell you there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes his heart and life, than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to change.

NCV

Luke 15:4-7

The Lost Sheep

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Parables – Luke 15:4-7

In Context: *Read Luke 15*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God’s Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

"Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. Luke 15:4-7

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

"Suppose one of you | has a hundred sheep | and loses | one of them. | Does he not | leave the ninety-nine | in the open country | and | go after | the lost sheep | until he finds it? | And | when he finds it, | he joyfully | puts it on | his shoulders | and | goes home. | Then he calls | his friends | and | neighbors together | and says, | 'Rejoice with me; | I have found | my lost sheep.' | I tell you that | in the same way | there will be | more rejoicing | in heaven | over one sinner | who repents | than over | ninety-nine | righteous persons | who do not need | to repent. Luke 15:4-7

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I was off by myself, stubbornly wandering in a life of sin. My life was a mess. I was bruised and battered. You left heaven to find and save me. Thank you for rescuing me and carrying me back to you so I could live a new life. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you been stubborn and independent like a lost sheep?

When has your independent and wandering nature led you away from the Lord?

How are you weak like a sheep and defenseless against attacks from predators?

When has life left you bruised and battered like a wounded sheep needing the Shepherd’s care?

How do you feel knowing that it was the Good Shepherd who sought you and brought you to Him?

What happened in heaven when you turned away from your sinful and broken life to follow Christ?

How has the Good Shepherd carried you and healed your life as you have followed Him?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Turn away from your old life of wandering in sin, to live a new life of loving, following and serving your Good Shepherd.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that there was rejoicing in heaven on the day the Good Shepherd helped you to turn your life over to Him.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how the Good Shepherd found, rescued and carried you back to Him.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

