

# GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

## Parable (Stories of Grace) Defined by Grace (Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor) *Luke 15:1-23*

Week of March 9, 2019

Jesus taught us how GRACE changes everything. This week we learned that grace defines us. We discover our true identity only when we see ourselves through the lens of God's grace. Jesus taught a trilogy of parables, back to back, to convey, in memorable fashion, just how important we really are to God. Through the three parables, we discovered that we are Known, Treasured and Loved by God.

**Kicking it off:** In his sermon, Jeff confessed to his brutal destruction of a doll treasured by his wife. Describe a possession that was very important to you as a child.

### Discussion:

1. Reread the context of Jesus' trilogy of parables found in *Luke 15:1-3* Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Then Jesus told them this parable:

What value did the Pharisees place on Jesus' new friends? Why did they view them that way?

2. Reread "The Parable of the Lost Sheep" found in *Luke 15:4-5* Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he 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.

It is amazing that a good shepherd can notice when one of his sheep are missing. God notices individuals too. How is it that God can have personal knowledge of each of the 7.7 billion people on the earth?

3. Reread "the Parable of the Lost Coin" found in *Luke 15:8* Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

We learned that the silver coin was called a "drachma" and was worth a whole day's wages. This parable speaks to our value in God's eyes. Why does God find us so valuable?

4. Reread *Luke 15:9-10* When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Why do many people struggle to believe there was a celebration in heaven at the moment of their conversion?

5. Reread the father's response to the prodigal son's return found in *Luke 15:20* While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

What does this tell you about God's heart toward you?

6. In what ways does your self-perception differ from what Jesus taught in these parables?

**Wrapping It Up:** Pray that the members of your group will clearly and boldly explain to a needy world that reconciliation with God comes through trusting Christ as Lord and Savior.