

PEFC Weekly Family & Small Group Study Guide

August 20, 2023

Paynesville Evangelical Free Church
Walking With Jesus
Joy of Repentance
Luke 15:1-7



Big Idea

God's Rejoicing is Vitaly Concerned with the Repentance of Sinners!

1. Jesus' kingdom concern is with the outcasts of society.
2. Jesus' concern for the outcasts is repentance from sin.
3. Jesus' rejoicing is directly tied to sinners who repent.

Introduction

Share a time when you lost something important to you. What did you do to try to find it? How did you feel when you found it (or gave up trying)? Did you share or interact with others during your experience?

Bible Study Questions

Have someone read Luke 15:1-7

What was the Pharisees complaint about Jesus? Why did they feel this way? What hypocrisy does this bring out? How might we sometimes act like the Pharisees? How might we “welcome sinners” as Jesus did?

In Jesus' parable, why does the Shepherd leave the flock (99 sheep) and go looking for the one lost one? Does this mean Jesus loves the lost one more than the flock? Why or why not?

What is the Sheperd's response when he finds the lost sheep? What did Pastor Brad say might be a reason that he would put the sheep on his shoulders to take it home? Give an example of a time when you or someone you know had this type of encounter with Jesus.

Why do you think the Shepard calls together his friends to tell them he found the lost sheep? How does their reaction contribute to the joy of the shepherd?

What connection does Jesus make between the story and what happens when a sinner repents?

What does this tell us about Jesus' love for sinners? What kind of response might Jesus have been looking for from the Pharisees?

What are two critical lessons that Jesus is trying to instill with this teaching? (Hint: think about what the Pharisees valued versus Jesus, and the response Jesus intended from the tax collectors).

Next Steps

Extend Jesus' love for a sinner this week. Find a practical way to "welcome" him or her.

Reflect on the extend of God's love for you based on heaven's rejoicing at your repentance.

Evaluate your life for an area that you may have strayed from God and have an opportunity for repentance.

Prayer

Thank Jesus for his love for us when we stray from him. Share life needs within your group and pray for one another. Remember that prayer requests need to remain confidential and not be repeated outside your group without permission.