

## **The Father's Heart**

Luke 15:1-10

**Directions:** Encourage everyone to print out the printable Luke 15 passage, and keep in a folder. Use the provided instructions (on the website) to mark/highlight key words, phrases or verses that stand out. Record notes and insights in the margins. During your group time, read the Scripture passage together, and go through the manuscript together. Share and discuss observations, understanding, and applications. If needed, choose a few of the “**dig deeper**” questions below to supplement your discussion.

### **“Dig Deeper” Questions:**

1. Who would represent the sinners & tax collectors in our society today? **Verses 1-2** reveal that Jesus welcomed them and ate with them. Take an honest look at your life: when was the last time you spent time with these groups of people? Would you say you actively seek these people out? Why or why not? Discuss your answers with your group.
2. Pastor Dave’s three points about our God’s passion for finding the lost and bringing them home were: (1) He takes the loss personally, (2) He conducts the search fervently; and (3) He joyfully celebrates the return. What do these reveal about the heart of our Father? How does our approach differ from the Father’s?
3. Does a lost sheep know he is lost? Does a coin have self-awareness? Does a sinner know that he needs to repent? What does this passage reveal about God’s role, our role, and the lost person’s role?
4. Read **Luke 15:7, and Luke 19:10**. These verses give us a glimpse into our mission and the priorities of heaven. What are some barriers that keep us from having the same focus and commitment that Jesus did?
5. Trace the theme of joy throughout this passage. What are the implications of this? Would you say you find the same joy in seeking and saving the lost? Why or why not?

### **APPLICATION:**

Consider your heart and actions towards the lost. Make a list of the lost people in your life and specific things you could do to reach them. As a group, commit to praying for these people daily, and be intentional in seeking them out. One suggestion would be to consider serving together as a group at the next Patterson Homeless Outreach.

Or, perhaps, you are the lost one? Meditate on this passage, and ask the Holy Spirit to give you a fresh vision of who Jesus is and what He is calling you to. How do these two parables remind you about your value to God? Pray that the Holy Spirit would soften your heart and lead you to repentance. Share with a trusted friend, or someone in your small group.