

Writing a Love Letter

Lost and Found

Luke 15:1-7

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable: '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 neighbours, 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 people who need no repentance. Luke 15:1-7

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Exploring the parable of the lost sheep has helped us explore how we can develop the heart of the shepherd in our own lives. **Review each of the ways we have explored God's love as the shepherd:**

- Out of love, God goes and looks for the one sheep who has gone astray.
How have you seen God find you when you've wandered away?
- We're all called to be leaders in our own circles of influence.
How can you exhibit the heart of the shepherd in the places you've been called to lead?
- Our tendency to wander is what binds us together in community.
Do you have a community with which you can be authentic and truthful?
- When we learn to trust the Shepherd, our souls can find rest.
What do your habits reveal about what you value, and how do they help you rest in Him?

Now that the traditional model of church has changed, it is up to us to think about how sheep outside the fold will hear that their value comes from God's love, rather than accomplishments, achievements, goals, or image. The [Love Letter Fund](#) is a new opportunity for Covenant to invest in people willing to live out their faith and make positive social change. God has placed each of us right where we are for our lives to make a difference. ***As we think about what it means to live out our mission statement, what ideas, skills, or expertise has God gifted you to make a difference and show people the love of God here in Austin?***

Heavenly Father, as 2020 has brought so many unexpected challenges, thank you that your light can shine brighter than ever through the gifts you have bestowed upon each of us. Help us to live out our calling and help our community know your love. Amen.