

DISCUSS

- Share about a time you lost something of significant value, whether monetary or sentimental? How did you respond? How did it feel? Did you find it?
- This is a passage and parable that reveals to us God's heart. What is it specifically that God celebrates and invites us to most celebrate in vv. 7, 10, and 32?
- In looking at the story of the lost sheep, we see Jesus as presumably the shepherd and us as the sheep. How does seeing the shepherd's actions make you feel about God's heart for you? Share.
- How does the shepherd's actions change or shape how you look at others – especially those who a Pharisee might label a 'sinner'?
- Break down some of the actions of the shepherd's care for the lost sheep. How do you see those metaphors in God's heart for you?

APPLY

- Jesus intentionally spent time with 'sinners.' Brainstorm together qualities that would make you attractive to unbelievers to seek out or spend time with.
- Identify one person in your life or circle of influence who God may be directing for you to be-friend.
- What is one way you, your group, and our church can stay engaged in God's heart for those still spiritually lost?

PRAY

- Pray for specific names who are in need of being 'found' by Jesus...ask the Holy Spirit to draw them.
- Ask God for opportunities to connect with unbelievers.
- Ask God to give you courage to speak about him.

Devoted

CHURCH REIMAGINED

6

Week 6: Devoted to Heaven's Joy

Key Text: Luke 15:1-7

OPEN

In our text this week, we are given a picture by Jesus of what brings God and heaven joy. This week we are going to look at the first of three parables that Jesus tells in response to being criticized by the Pharisees. All three parables are about something 'lost' being 'found.' In the context of the chapter, Jesus is illustrating for us what matters most to God. The Pharisees were muttering to one another about Jesus welcoming and associating with people not yet living a godly life. Their concern was the integrity of God's law being followed. But Jesus points out to us in the parable of the one lost sheep what matters even more to God – even just one person 'being found.' What matters most to us? What do we most celebrate? Are we devoted to the lost as Jesus was?

REFLECT

- The Pharisees saw 'sinners' gathering around Jesus and associating with him (sharing a table). In the context of the passage, how would you define a 'sinner'?
- Counting the verses, how much of our passage (vv.3-7) speaks to being found and how many verses speak to celebration? What do you think is significant about this?
- Who receives more emphasis in terms of action in this parable, the shepherd or the sheep? Why? Explain.