



LIFEgroup Homework

Week of January 24, 2010

The Runaways

It is not hard to see that the younger brother, the Prodigal Son was lost. He was alienated from his father because he took his inheritance and ran. What is a bit more subtle is the fact that his older brother was passively rebellious. He also was alienated from his father. He too wanted what his father had, but his relationship with his father had been severed.

This week we focus our attention on the value of lost things and the limit to which we are willing to be inconvenienced to find them. The more valuable the item, the more we are willing to put effort into the search.

Sharing Questions

- 1) What is the worst part about being lost?
- 2) Who is the best at finding lost things in your circle of family and friends?
- 3) Why do people own metal detectors and walk the beaches for hours?

Getting Started Question:

On Sunday, Pastor Stan helped us to see that the more valuable the lost item, the more we are willing to be inconvenienced to find the object. Do you agree? Explain your answer:

What is the value of one lost soul to God?

Homework: Read Luke 15:11-32

All three parables speak of the same basic theme; there is a search for something lost and a celebration when it is found. But how is the third different from the first two?

Read Luke 15:13-16

What was the Prodigal Son living for?

In what ways are you sympathetic toward the younger son?

LIFEgroup homework

In your own words, what brought the young man to the point of making a 180-degree change?

Read Luke 13:1-5. Why is this theme of repentance so important in the gospel of Luke and the story of the Prodigal?

Read Luke 15:2 and 20-24. What does Jesus want His critics to know about their Heavenly Father's attitude toward the lost?

Read Luke 15:28-32. What do you see in the character and motive of the father toward his older son?

What part of these three parables moves you to believe in the possibilities of new or fresh changes in your relationships with loved ones and with God?

Pastor Stan spoke of Arab Christians who are willing to risk their lives to bring Arab people to Christ. To what extent are you willing to be inconvenienced to see people who are lost, come back to God? Write a prayer telling God of your heart on this matter:

What characterizes a person or church that is serious about reaching the lost?

People are lost for many reasons. Some are lost through ignorance like the lost sheep. Some are lost through neglect like the lost coins and some are lost through an act of free will like the Prodigal Son. Some are lost through passive rebellion like the older brother. Some are lost because they were overwhelmed with life's circumstances like those in Haiti. Others are lost because a spiritual leader, like the corrupt Pharisees failed them. Who do you know that is lost and outside of the love of God?

What is God leading you to do to help them be found?



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