

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking. Which part of the message was most impactful to you and why?

Start Sharing & Talking About the message. NOTE: Pastor may not cover all points in all services.

Setting/Open: “Sheep” are prone to stray (wander or roam). People stop walking with the Lord, losing focus or becoming distracted. All of us could roam or wonder from the path of righteousness. **Rev 2:4**

1. **First Discussion Question:** Do I have a heart to seek the broken – those who are not walking with the Lord? Do I know their name(s)? What should we be doing? **A.** We should be seeking the broken.
2. **Second Discussion Question:** What kind of church do you want to be? What are two options? **A.** We can be condemning, judgmental, critical and hypothetical or a church filled with grace, love, mercy and be encouraging. **James 13:34-35 & Jude 1:20-23**
3. When we interact with the broken, what are two possible approaches? **A.** 1) To be compassionate; walk with them arm in arm. 2) We might need to be stern & serious– be “eye to eye.” **John 13:34-35**
Point: It is so encouraging to know that Jesus came to seek & save the lost. **Luke 19:9-10**

Review James 5:19-20

4. What are some of the reasons someone might wander from the truth? **A.** It could be deliberate rebellion; external pressures; a specific temptation that traps them; their environment. **Heb 2:1**
5. Rather than debate whether a person can lose their salvation, what should we do? **A.** Go after the broken & restore them. **Gal 6:1 & Matt 9:36** **Note:** **Luke 15** is filled with parables regarding rejoicing over finding those who were lost.
6. **James 5:19 Key:** “if anyone among you wanders...” What is the warning? **A.** Anyone can be tempted to wander. What “inoculates” us from wandering? **A.** Reading the word & praying daily.
7. **Third Discussion Question:** Were they/are they really Christians? **Point:** No need to debate this – just go get them and “turn” them back.
8. What are three types of strayers? **A.** 1) The truly lost – unbelievers; 2) Deceived sheep – might call them cultural Christians who may think they are saved but are not born again; 3) Backslidden Sheep – those who are saved but on walking with the Lord and have turned away temporarily. Examples: Abraham (many failures), Moses (murder); David (adultery); Peter (denial). Did Peter lose his salvation? No. **Luke 22:31-32**
Point: God calls us to be a tool in His hands to help those who have strayed.
9. What are 5 practical things we can do to help those who wander? **A.** 1) Pray for them; Watch ourselves and don’t fall into temptation. **1Cor 10:12 & Pro 16:18** And don’t judge them. **Matt 7:1-5;** 3) Engage them. We must be ready to approach them in love with the truth. We must be in their lives and available. 4) Forgive them – release the debt they owe us. “Don’t shoot the wounded.” 5) Speak words of kindness & love. The enemy accuses them- we love them. **Col 3:16**
Point: The devil encourages them to sin and then causes condemnation with, “And you call yourself a Christian.”
Closing Encouragement: God is always ready to welcome back those who wander. **Isaiah 35:3-4**

Start Praying & Start Doing. Please remember to fill out the LIFEGroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEGroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

Talk it over | week 11

discussion | study 14822

The Heart That Seeks the Broken

Galatians 6:1 & James 5:19-20

Pastor Ed Taylor