

HANDCRAFTED

ICEBREAKER

What family tradition do you have that others might think is strange?

SCRIPTURE

- **Luke 15:1-7** - Parable of the Lost Sheep
- **Luke 15:8-10** - Parable of the Lost Coin
- **Luke 15:11-31** - Parable of the Lost Son

SUMMARY

How you treat yourself says a lot about how much value you believe you have. When our footing is shaken and the lies and myths we whisper to ourselves begin to overbear and rule over our identity, what can be done to cure our insecurity?

START WELL

- Read the scripture reference(s) and the discussion topics.
- Pray for your meeting and group.
- Be the first to smile!

END WELL

- Remind people to pray
- Update the prayer journal
- Give praise reports and updates
- Follow up with your group midweek

DISCUSSION

Jesus spoke in parables as a way of communicating difficult concepts via metaphors.

Luke 15:1-7

- Do you think the shepherd was wise to leave his 99 sheep to go find the missing one? What would you have done?
- If Jesus is the shepherd, what does it mean to you that He would pursue the lost sheep?

Luke 15:8-10

- How much do you think the party cost once she found the coin?
- If Jesus is the woman, turning everything over in her search for the lost coin, how far do you think He would go for something He loves?

Jesus often included his audience as characters in His parables. It shouldn't surprise us then that we, his audience, feature in all three of these parables.

Luke 15:1-7

- Who do you most identify with in this parable? There is no right or wrong answer, but try to give your reasoning.
- If you were the older brother, how do you think you would have reacted to your brother's *request*?
- When the Lost Son resolves to return home, he casts himself as a lowly servant. What sort of adjectives do you think he would use to describe himself?
- Have you ever been in a place where you thought you were irredeemable? If you're willing, share your story.

The Father's response to the son's return would have baffled Jesus's 1st century audience.

- How would you have reacted as the father?
- If Jesus is the father in this story, and you are the lost son (or daughter), then what is Jesus saying about you as the sheep, the coin, or the lost son?