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bigIdea small group discussion

She's one of the most popular performers today. Her songs top the charts time and time again. Because of her giftedness and opportunities, she lives on a stage few people will ever experience. But there's something about her life that everyone can relate to, no matter who we are.

In this message, Chris opens up the Bible to discover what Jesus might say to Katy Perry. And as we hear about her past and discover what God has in store for her future, we see some very telling lines that are actually meant for our lives.



BIG IDEA: Don't disconnect from God and church. But if you do, come back home.

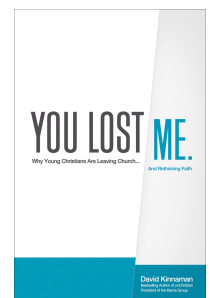
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is something of value that you lost? What were the emotions you felt when you realized you had lost it? How long did you look for it?
2. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 15:1-2.* Jesus spent most of His time in the company of sinners and tax collectors—those who were relationally lost from their Heavenly Father. How often do you spend time with those who are disconnected from God? How could you spend more time around those who are lost?
3. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 15:3-7.* In this parable the shepherd focused on what was lost and not on what was secure. How can you keep your focus on those who are disconnected from God instead of being satisfied with the company of Christians?
4. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 15:8-10.* In this parable the woman searched until she found what had been lost. How big a priority is it for you to connect people with God? What lengths are you willing to go to in order to help someone find a relationship with God?
5. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 15:11-32.* In this parable the father held nothing back in the celebration of the return of his lost son. Why was the older brother angry with his father? How did the older brother reflect the heart of the Pharisees (v. 2)?
6. *With your Bible or YouVersion, read Luke 19:10.* Should our focus be any different from Jesus' while He was on the earth? Should our church's focus be any different from Jesus' while He was on the earth? Why?
7. Who do you know that is disconnected from God? How will you engage them this year for the purpose of introducing them to their Heavenly Father?

GOING DEEPER

In the book *You Lost Me*, David Kinnaman describes three types of 'You lost me' people. *Nomads* identify as Christians but are not active in the church or in their pursuit of Jesus. (by the way, this is *Katy Perry*) *Prodigals* have left both the church and Christianity—they no longer identify themselves as Christians. *Exiles* are passionate about faith in Jesus but feel torn between the church and engagement with culture.

1. If you are a young adult, which of these stories do you most identify with? Why?
2. If you are an older adult, which of these stories have you observed playing out among young adults in your family and/or faith community? How?
3. Katy used to sing religious music, but her career tanked. But when she started doing mainstream pop music (secular), she became a huge success. Christians often overemphasize the divide between sacred and secular. Does the Bible acknowledge that divide?
4. Both Augustine and Aquinas believed that "All truth is God's truth." Do you agree with that? How might the church do a better job celebrating truth wherever it is found?



THINK ABOUT IT

Chris said that the value of the thing determines the time we give to searching for it, the energy we give to searching for it, and the price we are willing to pay to retrieve it. How much does God value those who are disconnected from Him? How much do you value those who are disconnected from Him? How much time are you willing to spend? How much energy are you willing to invest? What is the price you will pay?



MOVING FORWARD

Commit to pray for one disconnected person every day this year. Pray that God would open up opportunities for you to be a part of their life and for the opportunity to talk with them about your faith.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. Luke 15:20

Katy Perry

