



GUIDED BIBLE STUDY

Which Way Are You Leading?

Speaker: Ken Switzer

Highlighted Scripture

- **Luke 15:3-7**

Jesus tells of a shepherd who seeks a lost sheep and rejoices when it is found. In context, Jesus is answering criticism of His welcome of sinners; the parable points to heaven's joy over repentance. The poem Ken reads draws on this account to consider the influence adults have on younger people. Its sheep-and-lamb comparison is a poetic application, while the passage's central invitation is to turn back to God and share His joy when others return. Our example should reflect that same patient, restoring care.

Discussion Questions

- Ken asks, 'Who is following your example?' Who sees your ordinary choices closely, and what might those choices be teaching?
- In the father-and-son illustration, the father notices his influence only when his son copies him. What habit might surprise you if someone younger repeated it?
- How can laughing at an unkind joke or joining in gossip influence a family or workplace? What could a gracious response look like instead?
- The lost-sheep account celebrates repentance and restoration. How could admitting a mistake and asking forgiveness become part of a good example?
- How can you take your influence seriously while remembering that you cannot control every choice another person makes?

Reflection Challenge

For the next seven days, pay attention to one setting where others regularly watch you: home, work, or time with neighbors. Ask Christ to shape one everyday habit so that your actions make His care easier to see.

Ask yourself:

- Do my private habits and ordinary conversations agree with what I say I believe?
- When I fail, do I hide it, excuse it, or show what honest repentance looks like?
- Who needs a patient example from me more than another lecture?

Try this:

- Choose one habit to change this week, such as repeating gossip or responding impatiently. Write down a specific replacement action.
- Let someone see you do a small act of care without seeking attention: pick up litter, keep a promise, or help with an unwelcome task.
- If your words or actions have hurt someone, name what you did, apologize without excuses, and take one practical step to repair it.
- At the end of each day, thank God for one opportunity to lead well. Pray for the people you influence and entrust their response to Him.

Remember

- Others can learn from your example even when you are not trying to teach.
- Small, repeated choices shape the example you give.
- Following Christ comes before asking others to follow your example.
- A faithful example includes repentance, forgiveness, and a willingness to change.
- Take responsibility for your actions without assuming you control another person's heart.
- God's restoring care gives hope when someone has gone astray.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for seeking those who wander and welcoming those who turn back to You. Help me follow Christ in the choices others see and in the habits they do not. Guard my words from gossip and my actions from selfishness. Give me humility to admit wrong, courage to make things right, and patience with those who are learning from me. Let my family, neighbors, and coworkers see Your care through ordinary acts of faithfulness. I entrust their lives and responses to You.

In Jesus' name, Amen.