

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 3/3/2024

### Lost – The Lost Sheep

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

#### Highlights

- **Luke 15:1** Tax collectors were traitors, enemies of the Jews
  - If the message of Jesus isn't available to the sinners and tax collectors, should we be a part of it??
- **Luke 15:2** The Pharisees were not there to listen, but to chat among themselves
  - They are saying those sinners and tax collectors are unclean.
    - In the OT, you have to GET clean to approach God
    - In the NT, Jesus will COME to the unclean, and bring holiness to them
  - Are the unclean worthy of hearing the teachings of God?
- **Parable** – a simple story of common themes to teach about God's Kingdom and His character
  - This parable is directed to the Pharisees, but everyone heard it; everyone can learn from it.
- **Luke 15:4** – Sheep were not shepherd's pets, they were their livelihood
  - Sheep get lost easily and they don't find their way back
  - Sheep cannot defend themselves: not only from predators, but from nature (rocks, bugs, etc.)
  - Sheep will eat anything including poisonous plants
  - The one sheep who wandered off has not chance to survive by itself.
  - **Sheep need a shepherd.**
- **We are sheep and we need a shepherd!** See John 10:11, 14-15.
  - Jesus knows His sheep!
  - Jesus is actively searching for His sheep because He knows them.
    - This wandering one isn't a random sheep. The shepherd KNOWS it.
    - **Jesus knows YOU.**
- **Luke 15:5-6** When the shepherd finds the sheep, it is comfortable on his shoulders because he knows it and it knows the shepherd.
  - The sheep is worth it to go after it.
  - **YOU are worth it for the Great Shepherd (Jesus) to go after.**
  - Did Jesus leave all the FOLLOWERS to go after the LOST?
    - **We ALL have been lost sheep.**
      - And at some point you were lost again.
      - **Don't look at yourself and think you are part of the 99!!!**
    - **If you've ever been found you were carried.**
      - And you're still being carried.
    - **You are known**
- God is coming for you, to CARRY you. He sees you and knows what you're going through.
- This is a story about the JOY of the shepherd.
  - Jesus has been filled with joy because He found you and carried you. And He is celebrating with all of heaven.
- **Luke 15:7** Doesn't everyone need to repent? Yes, but he's talking to and about the Pharisees who THINK they don't need to repent.
  - They think they are fine – the 99.
  - The one who wandered off KNOWS he's lost.

- **We are all the one and Jesus is putting us all on His back.**
  - **If you were lost, never forget you were the one.**
  - **If you are still lost, Jesus is actively searching for you.**
  - **The day we surrender our life and direction to Jesus is a day of joy for all of heaven.**

### **Car Conversations**

- If you had 100 sheep, would you leave to go find one lost one?
- Why do you think the shepherd did that?
- Do you know Jesus cares about you like He cares for sheep?

See Luke 19 – the story of Zaccheus

- Jesus saw Z, he knows Z, he wants to be with Z
- **Luke 19:9-10**, Salvation has come to this house: Jesus is saying Z is part of the family!

**Today is the day Jesus sees you and brings you home – into the family.**

- **You don't have to be lost any longer**
- **Today is the day of salvation for you!**