

SEARCH PARTY

DECEMBER 30, 2018

SERMON STUDY

Dive deeper into this week's message and passages from the Bible. Here are some questions to help guide your group discussion.

There are all kinds of parties, but what kind of party does God want to throw? By knowing Jesus, understanding what he celebrates and values, and what his heart beats for, we will find the answer.

Read Luke 15:1-2 and Luke 15:8-10. Jesus went from city to city, searching for the people the religious leaders considered to be worthless. Jesus showed the world that he came to find the very people others wrote off because God called them valuable. It's the same today: you aren't forgotten—you're searched for!

- In today's world, who comes to mind when you consider people who are overlooked? Do your attitudes and actions toward these people mostly resemble the Pharisees' or Jesus' attitudes and actions? Explain.
- When is it hard for you to feel accepted by God and by others? When is it hard for you to accept others? How do these verses challenge your view of yourself?
- Remember: Just like a coin, the one who made us sets our value—nothing can steal that. His image on us can't be erased. Our value is not determined by where we are or what we've done, but by whose we are. Jesus says, "I accept you!"

Read Luke 15:9-10 and Romans 8:32. All of heaven throws a party when one person is found because God values us! The church is to take up the mission of Jesus, continuing God's search party for the lost.

- Have you ever seen or been in a search party? When have you ever lost something valuable? Knowing that God organized a community to find what is lost, how does that change how you view God? How can it change how you live this week?
- In your day-to-day life, do you interact with people who are far from God? Explain. If not, how could you seek opportunities to "search" for those people?
- In what ways does your life shed light on who Jesus is and what he's done for those who have yet to know him?
- In what way can you begin participating in God's search party right now and celebrate when people are found?
- Remember: If God would lead a search party to find you, hear your prayers, offer himself to you in your greatest moment of need, and forgive you, won't he also do the same for the people you know who are far from him? He is all in, and calls us to be part of his search party.

REFLECT

What is God saying to you through his word? How and when will you respond?

DAILY BIBLE READING

Need a review of what we're reading in Daily Bible Reading? Here's a glance at how we're being challenged this week. (Subscribe at: tpcc.org/dailybiblereading)

Day One: Luke 15:1-2 | I accept you.

Day Two: Luke 15:8-10 | Lost, but not forgotten.

Day Three: Luke 15:8-10 | Worth the search.

Day Four: Luke 15:9-10 | A party for you.

Day Five: Luke 15:8 and Romans 8:32 | Won't he?