

Main Idea

Jesus left the 99 to go after the 1. What does that look like for us individually as well as a church in our community, valley and the world?

Discussion Questions

The Heart of Jesus for the One

Read: Luke 15:1-2

1. Jesus welcomed “tax collectors and notorious sinners” into His gatherings while others didn’t like it too much.
 - How do you see both of these in the modern church and what are the dangers of a church that doesn’t operate as Jesus modeled for us?
 - Read Luke 15:7, 10
 1. How do we do as a church when it comes to celebrating what God in heaven celebrates?
 2. How can we do better at this as a church and a small group?
2. Think about when you were “the one” who needed Jesus or needed a place to belong.
 - How did someone make room for you? How did someone sacrifice for you? Did someone invite you?

Read Romans 15:7

3. “Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”
 - How should this shape the way we welcome new people into our church?
 - What are the main obstacles between people who need God and how they view the church?
 - How have we as a church helped overcome these obstacles and what ideas do you have for being a welcoming church or reaching out more effectively?

A Church That Adjusts for Others

Read: Mark 2:17

“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

5. Pastor Daniel announced to us that we are launching a third Sunday service in January to make room for people who aren’t here yet.
 - How do you personally feel about that opportunity?
 - What does this decision reveal about our church’s mission?
6. How have others at The Orchard sacrificed to make it a place for you each Sunday?
7. What are some ways (time, comfort, giving, serving) you could adjust to help make room and resource the mission and those who don’t yet know Jesus?

Radical Welcome Like Jesus

Read: John 13:34–35

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

8. How can your small group embody this kind of love for newcomers, skeptics, and prodigals walking through our doors for the first time?
9. How can you personally become more intentional on Sunday mornings in welcoming or inviting people who don't yet know Jesus?

Prayer for the Ones

- Who are some of your “ones?” Those friends, coworkers, family members, or neighbors who aren't here yet but God wants to reach through The Orchard. Go around, name 2 or 3 each, and someone write down their names.
 - These are people we want to see following Jesus! Let's keep them in our prayers and in our invites the next months and years. Let's come back to this list on future weeks and see that God is moving.

Pray for The Orchard

- Take a moment and pray that God continues to bless this church and that Jesus keeps doing amazing things and that MANY will come to know Him in the coming year.

Pray for the pastors

- It is Pastor Appreciation Month and the pastors would love nothing more than for you to pray for them and their families for protection and blessing and anything else the Lord puts on your heart.