

JESUS INVESTIGATING

HOW WE KNOW.
WHY WE FOLLOW.

INVESTIGATING JESUS | PART 5

Self-righteousness doesn't look good on anyone, and it happens when our rightness about something (a view or the way we see the world) is so internalized that it becomes part of our identities. And when any view becomes part of your identity, you immediately begin to dismiss and disdain people you interact with because they are wrong. In fact, we don't just hold the *right* view. We are *right*.

CONNECT

Share a time when you lost something important. What happened? Did you find it?

Luke 15 contains three parables, and in the video you'll watch together as a group, Andy will focus on the third one. Prior to watching the video, briefly explain the first two parables.

- Read **Luke 15:1–7** aloud.

The point of this parable is that when you lose something, you don't comfort yourself with what you still have. You look for what is lost.

- Read **Luke 15:8–10** aloud.

Jesus, from the very beginning, elevates the status of women, and this would not have been lost on his first-century audience. Last week, a Samaritan (someone Jesus's audience hated!) was the hero. Here, Jesus elevates the status of women.

LEARN

You will watch a shortened version of a message from this series to set up your group discussion. Encourage your group members to watch the full message sometime this week to remind them of what you talked about.

APPLY

After giving your group members an opportunity to share what stood out from the video, discuss the following questions as a group:

1. What does the father in this story teach us about the character of God?
2. The father went to great lengths to restore a broken relationship and focused on that relationship instead of his son's behavior. Does this align with the view of God you grew up with or the view of God you currently have? Why or why not?



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3. Which brother do you relate most to?
 - The younger son, who demanded and squandered his inheritance
 - The older son, who was frustrated that his good behavior seemed overlooked
4. How would your actions toward others be changed if you viewed people as lost or found instead of bad or good? Would people notice a change?
5. Who in your life would be most difficult to rebrand as lost versus bad or evil?

BEFORE NEXT TIME

Jesus came to show us what God is like, and through these parables he gives a powerful illustration of how God reacts to lost things. Reread **Luke 15:1–32** this week and focus on the father's response in verse 20. Do you see God this way? If not, ask him to show you what needs to change.

Take some time to read **Luke 16–20** in preparation for Part 6.

PRAY

Use Andy's prayer as a guide:

Heavenly Father, thank you for this reminder, regardless of where it lands with us. Just give us the wisdom to put down our defenses for just a few minutes and give you the opportunity to work this into our thinking and our consciences. And I pray that we... maybe we just lead the way in our community to see people differently and respond differently, as our heavenly Father responded to us because we've all been the younger brother. So, give us eyes to see and courage to respond. I pray in Jesus's name, amen.

