

REACH ONE PERSON AT A TIME

LUKE 15:1-7

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE - FEBRUARY 8, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-7 (ESV). Read the full passage together

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

Can you recall a time when someone made you feel noticed, seen, or cared for as an individual even though you were part of a larger group? What did they do that made you feel like a “name” not a “number”, and why did it matter to you?

SERMON RECAP

Last week, we looked at Jesus’ call in Luke 5 to “let down our nets” as part of our church’s five-year vision. This week, we zoom in on the first expression of that call: Reach One.

In Luke 15, Jesus reveals the heart of God—not for crowds or statistics, but for people as individuals “names not numbers.” When criticized for welcoming sinners, Jesus responds with a parable that shows God’s willingness to go out of His way for one lost sheep.

Throughout the sermon, Pastor Mike referenced multiple other passages (Luke 5:12-13, 27-29; Luke 7:11-15; John 4:7-30; Luke 8:45-48; Acts 8:29-35; Acts 17:24-25; Luke 15:21-23), which together with Luke 15:1-7 highlight:

- God does not value people because He needs them, but because He chooses to love them.
- Heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents.
- Jesus consistently prioritized people who were overlooked, marginalized, or avoided.
- Reach One is not a project or program, but a lifestyle and a way of seeing people.
- Following Jesus requires margin, humility, and courage to move beyond comfort.

Reach One is ultimately about getting to know people and helping people get to know Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read Luke 15:1-7 aloud as a group. Before interpreting or applying the passage, share simple observations. What stands out to you? What feels surprising or unexpected?
2. Who is drawing near to Jesus in verse 1? Who is grumbling in verse 2, and why are they upset?
3. What does Luke mean by “tax collectors and sinners” in this context? Who were the Pharisees and the scribes? How would these groups have been viewed socially and religiously?
4. In the parable, what specifically happens after the man realizes one sheep is missing? What actions does he take, and how does the parable end?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. What does the shepherd’s willingness to leave the ninety-nine reveal about how God prioritizes individuals (“names”) and not just “numbers”?
2. The parable emphasized this question: Why do we often care more about lost possessions than lost people? (That is, if you would go after sheep—a financial asset—why not people?) Why do you think that’s true?
3. Think about the snapshots from Jesus’ life (the leper, Levi, the Samaritan woman, the grieving widow). What do they reveal about Jesus’ availability and attentiveness? What do they reveal about His willingness to engage people the culture thought He shouldn’t? What does this mean for us as we seek to follow Jesus?
4. What is the main point of this passage in one sentence?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Which barrier to Reach One do you feel most in your life right now: busyness, prejudice, or fear? What is one step you can take to begin to decrease that barrier?
2. This week's challenge was to have the following question in our mind as we interact with people: "God, how can I be a breath of fresh air to this person?" What might that look like for you in a real conversation or interaction? Any one specific come to mind?
3. What would it look like for our Church Group to practice Reach One together this year—not as a project, but as a posture?
4. Jesus consistently invited people out of anonymity and into relationship. What step might God be inviting you to take to become more known in Christian community?

