

Treated like Friends: Group Study

This Is Our Story: Week 1

Passage: Luke 15:1-10

Sermon Outline:

Jesus used stories to confront **assumptions about God** and to create a **new vision for discipleship**.

- A new understanding of **our lostness**.
- A new appreciation of **God's pursuit**.
- A new invitation to **eternal joy**.

Invitation: don't just **hear** the parable, **inhabit** the story.

Discussion Questions from "This Is Our Story" Booklet

Discussion helps are indented, italic, & blue.

What is your favorite story, book or movie? Why does that story grasp you?

† Discover the Way of Jesus

Each week, this section is supposed to figure out what the text is saying to us.

Read verses 1-2. How would you describe the attitude of the Pharisees and scribes at the beginning of our passage? When have you had a similar attitude?

I would describe this attitude as "self-righteous" or "Judgy." As a leader think about a time when you have mis-judged someone... or "read a book by it's cover." How did you realized that you were wrong?

Now, read verses 3-10 and compare the two stories. What key words and phrases are repeated?

Invite people to take turns reading and compare the stories.

How would you summarize the reason that Jesus told these two parables?

Ryan suggested that Jesus told stories because:

They are accessible to all people

They are shocking and they create disorientation.

*They have a way of “getting into our bones.”
Our brains are hardwired for stories.*

♥ **Nurture the Heart of Jesus**

*Each week, this section is supposed to help us see what Jesus cares about most.
Hint, it is people.*

How do you think this was received by the different groups of people listening to him?
How would you feel if you were listening?

*Would shepherds have thought it was a good idea to leave 99?
Would it be wise to spend a fortune on a party after finding a coin?*

How can we become people who stop grumbling and nurture Jesus’ heart of optimism and hope for people? How can we rejoice in repentance?

As Pastor Ryan pointed out, these parables should give us a “New understanding of our lostness.” When we understand our own lostness, it can go a long way to caring about the lostness of others.

Maybe the first step is to remember that none of us can brag about being perfect. Spend some time reading Psalm 51 together (take turns reading a verse or two) and make this your prayer.

○ **Act for the Sake of the World**

Each week, this section is where we try to put what we’ve talked about into action..

Because of what God has been saying to you this week, what is one step of faith that you’d like to take?

Pastor Ryan mentioned that these stories ought to give us a “New Appreciation of God’s pursuit.” Who is God calling you to pursue?