



Outsiders

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The One Percent Difference Week of September 19, 2021

Intro Discussion Question(s):

- *What have you learned most in your study of God's Word this week?*

Read Bible Study Summary:

We are living in one of the most dramatic and wonderful periods of the Christian Church. Right now, more people are coming to faith in Christ daily than ever before in the history of the church (78,300 daily converts). However, 93% of those conversions are happening outside of the United States. In fact, the US ranks fourth among nations with the most lost people. Fewer and fewer people are entering a relationship with Christ and involved in a church. In our passage today, Jesus shares a parable about a shepherd who has a heart for even the 1% that is missing and lost. If the shepherd has 100 sheep and 1 of them is lost, the shepherd leaves the 99 to find the one. That is the reality of Jesus, our Good Shepherd...he cares deeply for the 1% that are lost and sick even if 99% of the other sheep are safe and sound, healthy and whole. And, if the essence of discipleship is getting up every day and following a living Savior, it stands to reason that our hearts will resonate with his heart. The lost ones he cares about, we will care about too.

Main Scripture

- *Read Luke 15:1-7*

As we follow Jesus, how does he transform our hearts for outsiders?

1. Our Daily Conversations (Luke 15:1)

- **“tax collectors and sinners”** were some of the most secular and irreligious people in Jesus' day, and they were coming, not to see what he was doing, but hear what he had to say. The message of Christ was that they were living their lives without God, but he had come so they would have life, and have it abundantly. Jesus was offering an entirely new way to live. These sinners, who were eaten up by their own sin, were coming to hear the message, that through Jesus, they could have a new kind of life.

- When we follow Jesus, we begin to live the new life through the Holy Spirit that Christ gives to us. As a result, our conversations change. It is not hard to talk about a new life, especially when yours is the one that has been changed.
- **Read John 10:7-11** - *7 Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*
- **Ask Questions**
 - *In what ways does the new life that you have in Christ permeate your conversations with others?*
 - *Think back to the past month...share an example of a conversation that you had with someone else when you spoke about an aspect of the abundant life that you have in Christ.*

2. Our Friendship Circles

- **"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."** - The religious leaders criticized Jesus for showing hospitality to a group of sinners by eating with them. In the middle eastern culture, eating with other people was one of the greatest showings of hospitality and friendship. One of the greatest obstacles we have in the church today is opening our friendship circles to lost people. A consumer mindset has infected the church in America. In many situations, church members have their fellowship and relationship needs met and do not prioritize engaging in friendships with the lost. Hospitality to the lost, therefore, is something that requires intentionality.
- **Ask Questions**
 - *When we come out of a life of sin, it is often necessary for us to remove ourselves from bad company which corrupts good character. In what ways should the Christian life be a balance between maintaining close fellowship/accountability with believers and ministry to the lost?*
 - *Who is one lost person that the Lord has placed on your heart that you need to minister to and share the gospel with? Why do you believe God has placed that person on your heart?*

3. Our Life Mission

- **"Goes after the one which is lost until he finds it" "Rejoice with me: I have found my lost sheep"** - Jesus is absolutely serious about eliminating lostness. His purpose is to saturate our world with the gospel about a new life. Church leaders can find numbers about how many people attend church services and are involved in our small groups. However, a statistic that Jesus is concerned about is the amount of people in our community that are not counted in our church attendance. When we begin to follow Jesus, our hearts begin to resonate with his mission to seek and save the lost.
- **Read Luke 19:10** - *7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." 8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." 9 Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."*
- **Ask Questions**
 - Have someone google "population of Slidell, LA." If we were to estimate that 20% of the population was involved in a church, how many people would be left over to reach? How does that number affect your heart?

- In what ways does your daily life need to change to match the mission of Christ: “to seek and save the lost”?

Evangelism Preparation

A. Share the Gospel from Scripture (The Romans Road)

- Each week in this series, have someone practice sharing the gospel using these five Scriptures. Use your Bible. It may not be easy determining what to say transitioning between the Scriptures, but that is okay. Perhaps other group members can help.

Romans		
3:23	We Are All Sinners	For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
6:23	Consequence of Sin	For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord
5:8	God Loves Sinners	But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
10:9	You Can Be Saved	If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved
10:13	God’s Promise	Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

B. Share the Gospel Using Your Testimony

- Have someone in the group practice sharing their story of how Christ saved them and the abundant life they now have in him. They can use the following categories to help guide their conversation:
 - My life before Christ....
 - I accepted Christ....
 - My life with Christ....

Closing

- **Ask Question** - *What is the greatest challenge you are facing right now? Is there some way our group can help you specifically?*
- Pray together over those requests.