

“Lost”
Small Group Bible Study
August 5, 2007

Read: Luke 15:1-7

Reflect: Imagine that you are in a busy mall with several children in your care and you lose one of them. Describe how your emotions and actions would parallel those of the shepherd in this parable. How does this compare with your emotions or actions toward people who are lost (i.e. don't know Jesus)?

Dig: Why did Jesus tell this parable? How is Jesus' response to the Pharisees similar to God's words to the 'shepherds of Israel' in Ezekiel 34:1-6? With whom do you most identify in the parable: The Pharisees, the neighbors, or the shepherd? Who are the lost, both in these passages and in your life? Answer specifically. According to the Luke passage, what motivates the action of 'leaving the 99' and 'searching for the lost'? How might this look in your life?

Apply: In what ways are we 'getting it right' with how we respond toward the lost? How could we improve? Answer for yourself, your small group, and for Madison Square Church. Make these words from Romans 15:5-6 the basis of a prayer for our church. *“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (TNIV)*