

Small Group Discussion Guide



Ice Breaker: What did you do as a child to celebrate Easter? Do you currently have special traditions you like to do for Easter?

Instructions: If your group meets bi-weekly do 2 & 4.

1. Pastor Tom stated, "The reason for Easter week is that Jesus came on a mission of mercy." What took place Easter week that demonstrates God's mercy (see Matthew 26 & 27). Pastor Tom pointed out that there are two groups of people in God's eyes. Who are they? He explained that both terms mean that "Someone loves you, that you matter..." and that if something is 'lost' it is valuable. Is it hard to understand your true value when you are lost? Why or why not?
2. There is a cost of being lost. Review the 5 ways outlined in the message notes as well as the scriptures provided for each. Do any of these resonate with you more than others? How so? How has being "found" corrected some of these in your life or the life of someone else?
3. Pastor Tom said that "Mercy rescues us from ourselves - you are your biggest problem." How have you experienced this truth? Read Matthew 11:28 and Joel 2:25. In these passages, "Mercy recovers our value/potential". How so? "Mercy reconnects us to God" through reconciliation. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-18. What changes take place in the saved person's life? What ministry now becomes ours?
4. Three steps were outlined for embracing God's mercy. What are they? Why is each step necessary? Explain. Pastor Tom ended his message reminding us that God takes the initiative to "run" toward us and the cross tells us how much He values us. Read Luke 15:20, Romans 5:1-2, 2 Corinthians 6:2 and John 4:9-10. How do these passages help you understand your great value to God? How might this understanding impact your celebration of Easter this year?

Personal Guide for Week of April 9th

DAY 1 – Read Luke 15:1-7. How does your wandering nature separate you from God?

DAY 2 – Read Luke 15:8-10. How do your circumstances separate you from God?

DAY 3 – Read Luke 15:11-31. How do your choices separate you from God?

DAY 4 – Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. How does seeking God with your whole heart impact your life? What does God promise if you do this?

DAY 5 – Read John 3:16. How does this familiar verse demonstrate your value to God?

NEW *every* DAY

MESSAGE NOTES &
SMALL GROUP GUIDES

Mercy: Rescue, Restore, Reconnect
4/9/17



“Mercy: Rescue, Restore, Reconnect”
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Mercy is one of God’s primary _____, but understanding how mercy works in our lives and in the lives of others is often challenging.

_____ = undeserved forgiveness and unearned kindness.

The reason for Easter week is that Jesus came on a mission of _____ (note Luke 19:10; Titus 3:5).

There are only 2 kinds of people in God’s eyes:

- S_____ people
- L_____ people

Both terms mean that Someone _____ you, that you matter...

If something is “lost” it means it is v_____.

Note Luke 15:1-7 (lost sheep); Luke 15:8-10 (lost coin); Luke 15:11-31 (lost/prodigal son)

1. There is a _____ of Being Lost

Like a lost sheep...

- A. I lose my _____ (note Isaiah 53:6a) - we _____ get lost when we follow our own way...we lack direction, purpose, and m_____.
- B. I lose God’s p_____ - apart from a life-transforming relationship with Jesus, human beings are spiritually v_____ (note Zechariah 10:2). Romans _____ is true for people who have and know the Good Shepherd.
- C. I lose my p_____ (note Luke 15:8-10, lost coin) - note I Corinthians 2:9—lost coins and lost people aren’t w_____. A lost coin is w_____; lost people lose their _____ potential in the hand of God (note Ephesians 3:20).
- D. I lose my e_____ (note Luke 15:14) - every moment unconnected to God is a _____ moment of joy, a minute less of happiness; and every moment apart from God is an added moment of _____.
- E. I lose out in e_____ (note Luke 9:25)

These 3 parables of Jesus in Luke 15 tell us...:

- Our wandering _____ separates us from God (lost sheep).
- Our circumstances can separate us from God (lost _____).
- Our c_____ can separate us from God (lost son).

But being lost doesn’t mean being without _____ (note John 3:16).

2. How Does Mercy “_____” Us?

- A. Mercy r_____ me from myself—you are your biggest _____ . Note I Timothy 2:5; Psalm 50:15
- B. Mercy r_____ my value/potential (note Matthew 11:28; Joel 2:25).
- C. Mercy r_____ me to God—“reconciliation” (note II Corinthians 5:17-18).

3. How Do I _____ God’s Mercy?

- A. _____ I need to change (note Luke 15:13-17) - there needs to be an _____ discontentment (note Jeremiah 29:13).
- B. Have the courage to admit the truth about _____ (note Luke 15:17-18).
- C. S_____ - the prodigal son wandered away saying, “Give me my _____” (Note Luke 15:12); he returned to the Father saying, Make me a s_____ (note Luke 15:19).

Mercy is new every day:

- Note the response of the Father (note Luke 15:20).
- Mercy means that God takes the i_____ (note Romans 5:2; II Corinthians 6:2).
- The _____ tells us our value (note I John 4:9-10).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“Mercy: Rescue, Restore, Reconnect”
Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

Mercy is one of God’s primary attributes, but understanding how mercy works in our lives and in the lives of others is often challenging.

Mercy = undeserved forgiveness and unearned kindness.

The reason for Easter week is that Jesus came on a mission of mercy (note Luke 19:10; Titus 3:5).

There are only 2 kinds of people in God’s eyes:

- Saved people
- Lost people

Both terms mean that Someone loves you, that you matter...

If something is “lost” it means it is valuable.

Note Luke 15:1-7 (lost sheep); Luke 15:8-10 (lost coin); Luke 15:11-31 (lost/prodigal son)

1. There is a Cost of Being Lost

Like a lost sheep...

- A. I lose my way (note Isaiah 53:6a) – we always get lost when we follow our own way...we lack direction, purpose, and meaning.
- B. I lose God’s protection – apart from a life-transforming relationship with Jesus, human beings are spiritually vulnerable (note Zechariah 10:2). Romans 8:28 is true for people who have and know the Good Shepherd.
- C. I lose my possibilities (note Luke 15:8-10, lost coin) – note 1 Corinthians 2:9 – lost coins and lost people aren’t worthless. A lost coin is wasted; lost people lose their true potential in the hand of God (note Ephesians 3:20).
- D. I lose my enjoyment (note Luke 15:14) – every moment unconnected to God is a lost moment of joy, a minute less of happiness; and every moment apart from God is an added moment of stress.
- E. I lose out in eternity (note Luke 9:25)

These 3 parables of Jesus in Luke 15 tell us... :

- Our wandering nature separates us from God (lost sheep).
- Our circumstances can separate us from God (lost coin).
- Our choices can separate us from God (lost son).

But being lost doesn’t mean being without value (note John 3:16).

2. How Does Mercy “Save” Us?

- A. Mercy rescues me from myself – you are your biggest problem. Note 1 Timothy 2:5; Psalm 50:15
- B. Mercy recovers my value/potential (note Matthew 11:28; Joel 2:25).
- C. Mercy reconnects me to God – “reconciliation” (note 2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

3. How Do I Embrace God’s Mercy?

- A. Admit I need to change (note Luke 15:13-17) – there needs to be an honest discontentment (note Jeremiah 29:13).
- B. Have the courage to admit the truth about you (note Luke 15:17-18).
- C. Surrender – the prodigal son wandered away saying, “Give me my share” (note Luke 15:12); he returned to the Father saying, Make me a servant (note Luke 15:19).

Mercy is new every day:

- Note the response of the Father (note Luke 15:20).
- Mercy means that God takes the initiative (note Romans 5:2; 2 Corinthians 6:2).
- The cross tells us our value (note 1 John 4:9-10).

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the connect card to let us know about your commitment, too!