

13 REASONS WHY

YOU NEED TO SHARE JESUS

JOHN 3 *16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

In Luke 15:1-31, we find three correlated stories about lostness. In the first parable, a shepherd leaves 99 other sheep to look for one that has wandered away. In the second parable, a woman searches her house from top to bottom just to find a lost precious coin. And in both parables, Jesus highlights the fact that there is celebration when what was lost is found again. At the end of each of these stories, Jesus said, “I tell you, it is the same in heaven. There is joy in heaven over one person who turns away from sin.”

The final story is about the Lost Son (otherwise known as the Prodigal Son). The word prodigal can mean two things: 1) wasteful, 2) extravagant. In this story, Jesus shows how us that even people get lost sometimes by pursuing a way of life they think is best for them. They seek after things they think would make them happy not realizing that they are “wasting” the life, gifts, relationships, energy, breath that God gives them and forget the real reason for living. As Pastor mentioned, pursuing success apart from God is empty, Even though we are prodigals—we “waste” our life pursuing other things, we have a God whose love is prodigal (extravagant!).

There are two types of lost people based on the parable. A coin is an inanimate object, the sheep is directionless without a shepherd. The lost coin and sheep represent people whom we need to love and seek after because they are unaware of the lostness. While the prodigal son represent the people who have realized that they wasted their life and want to turn to God. The Bible identifies people who are distant from God as “lost.” Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

The main point of Pastor’s sermon: **LIFE IS SO MUCH BETTER WITH JESUS.** That is why we need to seek after lost people and welcome people who want to come back to God. We need to share Jesus because:

4. EVERYONE MATTERS TO GOD. Every person who does not have a relationship with Jesus is, in the Bible’s term, lost. This reason speaks greatly about how God feels about everyone. Jesus wants everyone to know that life is so much better with Him.

5. HIS LOVE IS RELENTLESS. God’s love never gives up. Just like in the stories in Luke 15, it doesn’t matter how lost a person may be. It doesn’t matter where they have been. Our God is always filled with love and compassion, ready to seek lost people and welcome back anyone him who wish to turn to Him. We read in Luke 15:1-2 that Jesus shared these stories because He wanted to remind the “religious” people who questioned him for hanging out with sinners, that instead of being unwelcoming, feeling judgmental and hateful, they should be happy when people who are far from God make a decision to have a relationship with God. *We exist to reach people who are distant from God so that they will be made alive and included in Christ!*

6. HEAVEN’S JOY. God is pleased when we lead people into a relationship with Jesus, and when every person far from Him who comes back to God. For God’s joy and our joy, we must share Jesus, because life with Him is so much better!

ANNOUNCEMENTS/NEXT STEPS:

- Arrows (Parenting Seminar in August)

PRAY TOGETHER FOR

- Growth in our obedience to share God’s love.
- The newcomers in the last few weeks.
- JP David as he transitions to life at Hillsong College.

GOAL FOR THIS STUDY: Life is so much better with Jesus. Many of us (and the people around us) spend our youthful days (our strength, our beauty, our influence) chasing after the wrong things for the wrong reasons. It’s not wrong to aspire to succeed or to be rich, influential, or wise. Those are all good things! But success without God; money without God; prestige without God; relationships without God, power without God; are all meaningless. Our calling as the church is NOT to stop people from pursuing success, happiness, joy and meaning, instead, to point others to the true source of success, happiness, joy and meaning—Jesus.

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Question:

Have you ever let someone down, disappointed someone, or hurt someone's feelings? Tell us about it.

Question:

Describe your current connections with non-believers. Do you have a consistent connection with or exposure to people who don't have a relationship with Jesus?

Question:

Does your past look more like that of the younger or older brother? What dangers does this alert you to?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical point of view.

Read Luke 15:11-31

Focus on the Younger Son

Who was Jesus talking to in this parable? What is your opinion about the younger son?

What do his actions tell about his attitudes toward his father's wealth? his father? life?

What causes him to come to his senses?

What was his attitude like when he returns to his father?

Focus on the Father

Do you think the father understood what was likely to happen when he gave the younger son his inheritance?

Why do you think he did it? How do you think he felt?

The father saw the son returning while he was still a long way off - do you think that this was by chance or has he been waiting all along?

How does the father treat the son on his return? What is the father's primary attitude toward his son?

Focus on the Older Son

How does the older son feel about the return of his younger brother?

Do you think the father loves the younger son more? Why or why not?

Do you think the older brother is justified in his behavior? Why or why not?

What does the father want for the older son?

Growing in Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders.

Question:

Jesus maintained His holiness and yet sinners seemed comfortable in His presence. How can we do the same?

Question:

Should all Christians be seeking to spend time with the lost, or is that command only for those with the gift of evangelism? What were the practical points shared by Pastor's panel with JP, Michael and Elijah?

Question:

What lessons did you learn from the story that you can apply to your own life and leadership?

Question:

If you had one hundred dollars in loonies and lost one would you spend valuable time looking for it?

Question:

What determines the value of person? Why is the life of each single person so valuable to God?