

Beyond Sunday

7.26.2026 — The Storyteller

The Lost Sheep — Luke 15:1-7 — Mark Turney

Gather

These questions help build connections with others as you share personal experiences.

1. Have you ever been lost—or had someone close to you go missing? What do you remember most about that experience?
2. Think about a time when someone went out of their way to pursue or care for you. How did that affect your relationship with them?

Grow

These questions guide your group through Scripture from Sunday's sermon, helping us better understand God's Word and His work in our lives.

Read Luke 15:1–7 together.

1. Why does Jesus tell this parable?

- What prompted Jesus to tell the story? (vv. 1–2)
- What does the Pharisees' complaint reveal about their view of people who were "far from God"?
- How is Jesus' response different?

2. What does this parable teach us about how people become spiritually lost?

- The sermon noted that sheep often "nibble themselves lost" rather than running away all at once.
- Why is that such an accurate picture of spiritual drift?
- What are some subtle ways people can gradually wander from God?

3. What does the Shepherd reveal about God's character?

- What actions of the shepherd stand out to you?
- What do they teach us about God's initiative, compassion, and persistence?
- Which part of the shepherd's response surprises or encourages you most?

4. Why is it significant that the shepherd carries the sheep home?

- Why couldn't the sheep rescue itself?
- How does this illustrate the gospel?
- What does this teach us about grace versus self-reliance?

5. What happens when the sheep is found?

- Why does Jesus emphasize celebration instead of correction?
- What does this teach us about God's joy over repentance?
- How might believing that God delights in us—not merely tolerates us—change the way we relate to Him?

Give / Go

These questions help us apply the sermon takeaways as we give back to God and go share what we've learned.

1. Who has God placed in your life that may be spiritually wandering or disconnected?
2. What is one faithful step you can take this week?
 - Pray intentionally for them by name?
 - Reach out with a phone call or meal?
 - Invite them to coffee?
 - Invite them to Alpha or another church gathering—and offer to attend with them?

Prayer

Read **Luke 15:6–7** together as a prayer of thanksgiving, celebrating God's joy over every person who returns to Him.

You may also pray this adapted prayer:

Good Shepherd,

Thank You for never giving up on us. When we wandered, You came looking. When we were too weak to return, You carried us home. Fill us with Your compassion for those who feel far from You. Give us eyes to notice who is missing, courage to move toward them with grace, and trust that You are already at work in their lives. Amen.

Prayer Question:

Who is your "one" this week? Share their first name (if you're comfortable), and spend time praying that they would experience the love of the Good Shepherd and that God would give you wisdom and courage to love them well.

Going Deeper

If you are interested in exploring the themes of this week a bit deeper, check out one of these resources:

Video

- ***Parables of Lost Sheep and Lost Coin*** by The Caffeinated Bible with David Paris
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5MTYzTrMD1w>

Bible App

- ***The Lost Sheep*** on the Bible App. Check out this 7 day plan to study scripture and put it into action on the YouVersion Bible App.
- <https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/73239>

Spiritual Practice

Prayer Walk for Your One

This week, take a 20–30 minute walk through your neighborhood or workplace while praying specifically for the person God has placed on your heart. Ask God to:

- Open your eyes to opportunities to love them well.
- Give them a growing awareness of His presence.
- Give you courage to take one intentional step toward them.
- Prepare their heart for an invitation to Alpha or another opportunity to encounter Jesus.