

YOU

BELONG

Week 1-You are Valuable to God

...Rejoice with Me; I have found My lost sheep. Luke 15:6

WELCOME

- ◆ Spend a few minutes greeting everyone in the group.

ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTION

- ◆ Today our world provides a wide variety of devices and platforms to connect and communicate. Do you think modern technology and social media help us experience a sense of belonging? Or to put it another way, do you think we feel more or less alone in today's society than in year's past? Why?

DISCUSSION

1. Have you ever felt left out? Describe a time in childhood or adulthood when you felt like you didn't belong.
2. **Read [Genesis 2:18](#)**. From the very beginning, God said it wasn't good for us to be alone. What evidence have you seen of this truth in your life?
3. What types of things do people tend to use as filters to determine whether someone's in or out of their group?
4. **Read [Luke 15:1-2](#)**. The Pharisees and teachers had a tendency to be exclusive and not include others. What were they really saying about the people Jesus chose to eat with when they asked this question?
5. Jesus responded to the question posed by the Pharisees and teachers by telling three stories. **Read [Luke 15:3-7](#)**. Who are the main characters in this parable?
6. In this "community" of sheep and a shepherd, what were the things that brought joy?
7. Sheep often lose direction. They don't follow. They are easily distracted and prone to wander. Sometimes the only way to get a sheep "home" is to wrestle it down and carry it. In what ways are you like a sheep in general? What ways were you like a sheep this week?
8. The great news is that Jesus, the Shepherd, has provided a way home; a way into His community. It's not based on what we do, but what He did. How does this fact encourage you in a current situation?
9. **Read [Luke 15:8-10](#)**. Talk about a time when you lost something and you went to great lengths to find it. What all did you do, and why did you search so desperately?
10. Identify some of the things Jesus went through to "find" you. What do these actions communicate about your value to Him?
11. At different times in our lives we tend to question our value and whether or not we belong. It can happen when we go to a new school, a new job, join a group, retire...Is there a particular area of your life right now where you are asking whether or not you belong?
12. Do you see yourself as a valuable coin? You are more valuable to God than a precious coin. You are worth searching for. You are worth dying for. How can you insert these truths into your current search for acceptance and belonging?
13. Tim Keller said that "community is a group of people who have been bonded together in one body through an intense, common experience." We belong to the Church Body, not based on our behavior, good or bad. We belong because of our common experience with Jesus who gave His life for us. How do you see this play out in your group?

PRAYER

- ◆ Ask your community group, thank God for all the ways He has united you in Christ.