Luke 15:1–10

Read **Luke 15:1–10** together. Leaders can choose five or six questions and leave room for follow-up.

Start the conversation

1. **What's something you've lost that had you looking in some ridiculous places?** Why did finding it matter so much to you?

Explore the passage

2. **Read verses 1–2. Some people are coming closer to hear Jesus. Others are complaining about the people he welcomes. How can both groups look at the same crowd and see things so differently?** What might surprise each group about Jesus' response?
3. **Read verses 3–4. Jesus answers their complaint with a story about one missing sheep. How does his story challenge the way the religious leaders see the people around him?** What does it tell us about the people God notices are missing?
4. **Read verses 4–9. What do the shepherd and the woman do that shows how much they care about what's lost?** What do we learn about God from the search that we would miss if we only heard about the celebration?
5. **Read verses 7 and 10. Jesus says these stories are about a sinner who repents. How would you explain repentance to someone who thinks Christianity is about trying harder to be good?** How do these stories help explain what God does to bring someone home?

Make it personal

6. **Read verse 5. The shepherd gladly carries the sheep home. When you've made a mess of something, how do you expect God to respond to you?** What has shaped that expectation, and how does this picture of the shepherd speak to it?
7. **When has hearing someone's story changed your opinion of something they did?** Who is someone you may know more about from what others have said than from getting to know them yourself?
8. **The gathering changes because of the people Jesus welcomes. Imagine someone who has never been to church joining our group next week. What would we need to explain, change, or make room for so they could join the conversation?** Which change would be hardest for you?
9. **Think of a time you admitted a failure and someone's response helped you move toward God. What did they do that made it easier to be honest?**
10. **Read verses 6 and 9. Both the shepherd and the woman invite others to celebrate. When might it be hard to celebrate someone receiving grace, especially if their choices have hurt you?** How could you share God's joy without pretending the hurt didn't happen?

Choose a response

11. **Think about your One Life, someone you're building a friendship with who may not yet follow Jesus. What have you learned about how they expect Christians to treat them?** What could you do together, or talk about, that would help you understand their story and show them the welcome of Jesus?
12. **Where does this passage challenge you most: noticing someone, moving toward them, welcoming them, or celebrating what God is doing in their life?** What will you do this week, and how could this group help?

Leader note: Keep God's grace, Jesus' welcome, and the call to repentance together. Welcoming someone does not mean approving everything they do. Repentance does not earn salvation. Celebrating someone's return does not mean trust is immediately restored or healthy boundaries disappear. Let people share honestly without asking them to reveal private details.