



It's one thing for me to tell you I love my family. But if I told you a story of how I sacrificed my time and money to provide for my family, then you would have a fuller picture of what I mean. Stories communicate in ways that propositional truths can't. By teaching in parables Jesus created powerful verbal pictures using real life to communicate life changing truths. Join us for this new series as we examine five of these parables and discover the generous grace of Jesus.

Discussion Questions: (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Before we jump into this study on God's grace, let's find out what you already know. How would you describe/define God's grace?
2. Read Luke 15:1-7. What specific problem did Jesus encounter (vv. 1-2) that prompted him to tell this parable? Why is the real issue at stake behind their grumblings what makes a person acceptable to God?
3. Jesus responds to their grumblings by telling a parable (vv.4-6). In this story there is a bad shepherd and good shepherd along with an indictment and an invitation. First, who are the bad shepherds and why? How/when are we like bad shepherds?
4. Who is the good shepherd to whom this story points and why? How does Jesus fulfill the characteristics of the good shepherd?
5. In the last verse (v.7), Jesus, in essence, says that in God's kingdom there are those who accept being found by him (repentance) and are welcomed into his kingdom resulting in great joy. And then there are others who don't recognize they are lost, (but instead think acceptance by God is based on something they must do to merit his grace, a.k.a. self-righteousness), and are left wandering joylessly in the wilderness. How does this parable change your view of repentance and grace?
6. We share the joy of the good shepherd both when we accept being found by him and when we join him on his quest to seek and save the lost. Have you experienced the joy of being found by Jesus? Have you experienced the joy of participating with him in his mission to find the lost sheep? How will you join him in his quest to reach lost sheep this week?