



For the One Group Guide | April 19

Open with prayer, the series description, and a question (15 minutes).

Begin your time together as a group with a word of prayer. Thank God for this space to learn, share, and grow!

Read the following series description for your group. Then, ask the question below:

- **SERIES DESCRIPTION:** Welcome to Week 2 of our For the One Series content! Our goal in this series is to cultivate awareness of the people God places in our path, to recognize every person as made in God's image (imago Dei), and to believe that God desires relationship with **all** people! This week, we're exploring how Jesus teaches us about the importance of "seeking the one" through his telling of three distinct parables.
- **QUESTION(S):** How would you rate the intensity of your "seeking" people who are far from God. Rate it on a scale of 1-10. Explain the number you chose.

READ Luke 15:1-32 and then discuss the sermon (30 minutes).

You may not get through all these questions. That's okay. Use the questions you think will be most beneficial for your group.

- In his sermon, Chad pointed out the core truth that "You are radically loved and relentlessly pursued by God" and that He is inviting you to help Him "seek and save those who are lost." How have you seen God's radical love and relentless pursuit for you personally? How might this knowledge be used as fuel to seek and save others who are lost?



- In the parable of the lost sheep (15:3-7), the shepherd leaves the 99 to find the one since, as Chad pointed out, sheep were “valuable.” What does this say about how God values each individual? How does this challenge our tendency to focus only on those already “with us?”
- In the parable of the lost coin (15:8-10), the woman searches and celebrates when she finds what was lost. What does the intensity of her search reveal about God’s heart toward people who are far from Him?
- What does it mean for how we think about our evangelism when we keep in mind Chad’s statement that lost coins “don’t know they’re lost?”
- In the parable of the prodigal son (15:11-32), the father waits for his son, watches for son, runs to his son when he sees him returning, and then celebrates his son when he’s fully home! What does this teach us about how God uses our waiting? Who in your life might you be called to “wait” for?
- Do you sense yourself to be more like the older brother in this parable (entitled, non-celebratory, looking out for self) or more like the father (apt to celebrate, watch, and wait, looking out for his lost son)? Explain.
- In his sermon, Chad also pointed out the audience Jesus is speaking to in Luke 15: the Pharisees and tax collectors. Why do you think He tells these parables in that moment? What does this tell us about who is included in God’s pursuit?

Mindset Shift (10 minutes)

Whereas Week 1 invited us to see the people around us as God sees them, this week, Week 2 takes that one step further. God is not passively waiting for people to find Him. Our God is actively pursuing every lost person. And guess what? He invites us to join Him in that search!



Reflect on the following:

- How do you currently “seek” the people around you who are far from God? Is it intentional or accidental?
- Is there someone in your life you’ve been praying for but haven’t stepped toward? What might a small, faithful step look like this week?
- What does prayerful waiting look like for you? Who might you be waiting for?

Case Study (20 minutes)

Split your group into smaller groups. Utilize the following case study in the smaller groups to prompt good discussion on evangelism and mission. Then, have the smaller groups reflect as a on the questions below. Once finished, come back as a large group and discuss what your smaller groups talked about.

Meet Marcus. Marcus is a man in his 40s who has been a Christian for most of his adult life. He has a coworker named Rhea who, over the years, has made comments that signal she’s skeptical of religion. She could even be described as slightly hostile. Marcus has tried a few times to bring up faith, but, each time, Rhea has shut the conversation down. Because of this, Marcus has begun to write her off thinking, “She’s just not interested.”

But after hearing a message on Luke 15, Marcus began to feel a renewed sense of call to seek rather than give up. He begins thinking of how to show God’s kindness to Rhea. Corner her with a gospel presentation? Not gonna work. Turn up the volume on his worship music in his office? Probably not the play either. What Marcus started with was actually pretty simple: Prayer. Marcus committed to praying for Rhea daily. He specifically asks God to soften her heart and to show him opportunities to share Him with her. As a result, Marcus began to feel more patient towards her. He felt himself growing more curious about her life, more willing to listen without any agenda.



Months later, Rhea's mother passed away suddenly. Rhea, visibly broken, comes to Marcus and said, "Marcus, sorry to bother but could we talk?" From here, she began to ask him how he gets through life's hardest moments, genuinely wanting to know his answers. And it's here that Marcus was able to share with her about the peace and hope that Christ affords him. Marcus shared the gospel with Rhea gently, and, while not committing to church or baptism, or anything else, Marcus realized something: Rhea took her first steps toward faith that day.

Reflect:

- How did Marcus practice prayerful seeking over time?
- What barriers did he face, and how did he push through them?
- What does his story reveal about the relationship between prayer and opportunity?
- How might you apply this in a relationship where you've felt like giving up?

Once finished, come back as a large group to go through the same questions and hear how people thought through Marcus's story.

Weekly Challenge & Planning (5 Minutes)

Like last week, this week we have two challenges for you:

- **CHALLENGE 1: Pray for someone you're seeking every day this week.**

Each day this week, pray specifically for one person in your life who is far from God. Ask God to give you eyes to see opportunities for gospel witness and courage to step into them.

- **CHALLENGE 2: Prepare to share!**



This week, take time to prepare to share the gospel with others. To do so, write down 2-3 Bible verses that are meaningful to you about faith, hope, or God's love. Practice putting them in your own words. (Suggestions: John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9)

Finish with prayer requests and prayer (5 minutes).

As you end your group time, make time to share about a person you want to be sharing the gospel with. If you don't have anyone in mind, that's okay, begin praying for God to give you eyes to see the people in your everyday life.