



For the One
Weekly Devotionals | April 19

Welcome to Week 2 of our For the One Series! Last week, we focused on seeing the people God places in our path as made in the image of God. This week, we're continuing to dive deeper by looking at Luke 15 where Jesus tells three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. As we enter in, we're going to see how God's heart isn't just to notice the lost, but to run after them. The question for us this week: Will we join Him in that search?

Read & Reflect on the Scripture

Read **Luke 15:1-32**. When finished, spend some time in reflection utilizing the questions below.

- In the parable of the lost sheep (15:3-7), the shepherd leaves the 99 to find the one. 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?
- In the parable of the prodigal son (15:11-32), the father doesn't chase his son. Instead, he waits for him, watches for him, and runs to him when he sees him returning. What does this teach us about how God uses our waiting? Who in your life might you be called to "wait" for?
- Who Jesus is speaking all these parables to according to verses 1-2 of Luke 15? 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

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

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?

Weekly Challenge & Planning

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)

Prepare for group discussion

Utilize the following questions to help you prep for your time in your life group.



- Is there someone in your life you've felt prompted to seek out, but have felt hesitant? What's the barrier?
- What does "seeking" look like for you personally? Does it look more like the searching shepherd, the sweeping woman, or the waiting father? Why?
- How comfortable are you sharing your faith? What would help you feel more prepared?
- How do you navigate the tension between seeking boldly and respecting where someone is? Do you tend to push too hard? Or do you veer towards not pushing hard enough?

End in prayer

Close your time by praying for the specific people God has laid on your heart.