

WEEK 2: PURSUED BY CHRIST

The Lost Sheep

If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? - Luke 15:4

Read: Luke 15:1-7

Remember that sick feeling you get in the pit of your stomach when you've lost something important? You will drop everything else and life becomes all about finding that one lost item, right? And when we're lucky enough to find it, whatever it is, the sense of relief can be overwhelming.

Jesus tells the story of the lost sheep to the Pharisees, who had been criticizing him for hanging out with tax collectors and sinners. He wanted the Pharisees to understand that God's love is available to all people equally. This went against everything the Pharisees believed. They were always eager to point out others "uncleanness," or sin, while turning a blind eye to their own. In the story, a shepherd with a hundred sheep leaves the other 99 of them when he realizes one is lost. It didn't matter which of the hundred sheep it was. All that mattered was that one was lost, and the shepherd couldn't rest until it was found.

God feels the same way when one of his children, any of his children, is lost. He will pursue them, go after them, give his everything for them until they come "home." It doesn't matter what choices they've made or how long they've been lost. He wants all of us, equally. What a comfort to know that if any of us wander, God will come after us.

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Think about a time in your life when you were lost and wandering. How did it feel to be far from God? Looking back, what are some ways he pursued you?
2. In what ways are we tempted to be like the Pharisees and judge others? How can you be reminded that they are worthy of God's love and pursuit?
3. Who in your life is wandering now? How can you pursue them? What are some practical ways you can show them God's love?