

#others

#GodLovesPeople – Message 1

Announcements

Register for each PATHWAY class below at ChurchoftheKing.com.

- **Water Baptism – Sunday, July 27th** at 7:00pm at Franco’s Athletic Club. Baptism participants had to have attended the required “The Power of Water Baptism” class on July 21st.
- **401 Small Group Training – Sunday, July 27th** at 5:00pm at LCC Globe345. This last step in PATHWAY is going to prepare you to fulfill God’s purposes in your life by teaching you how you can help people grow in their relationship with Christ.
- **Friday Prayer & Worship – Friday, August 1st** from 7:00pm–9:00pm in LCC Globe345.

Warm-up

Describe an experience when you were physically lost. How did you feel when you were lost? What was your response when you were found or when you found your way?

If God relied on Twitter, one of His hashtags might have been *#Others* or perhaps, *#ILovePeople*. Throughout its pages the Bible weaves irresistible evidence of God’s love for people, especially for the broken and hurting. Luke 15 tells of three parables that reflect God’s heart for the lost. During this week’s lesson, we are challenged to love people the way that *#GodLovesPeople*.

Word and Application

What is the most valuable object you have ever lost or misplaced? How long did you search for it? What did you do if (or when) you found it?

#LostAndFound

1. The Lost Sheep

Read Luke 15:3-4. An important fact to know about sheep is that they have no self-defense mechanism. A sheep that wanders from his shepherd’s flock is virtually helpless and hopeless. As people, what are the dangers we face when we wander away from God?

Continue reading Luke 15:5-7. How does the shepherd’s actions echo those of Jesus?

Similar to sheep, some people *know they are lost*. Those who recognize they are lost are often hurting, afraid and confused. In the end, lost people *want to be found*. This is why it is so important for us believers to be persistent and pursue broken people, as Jesus pursued us.

Describe a relationship, friendship or partnership that you are glad you pursued with persistence. What would have happened if you had not stuck with it?

2. The Lost Coin

Read Luke 8-10. Unlike the lost sheep in earlier verses, the lost coin *doesn't know it is lost*. Do you have individuals in your life who are lost but don't know it?

Read Ephesians 2:1. People who don't realize they are spiritually dead can often be self-satisfied, materialistic, even legalistically religious. Blinded to their own emptiness, they do not recognize their greatest need, the need for a Savior.

Now read Ephesians 4:15. The key to loving people who are lost yet unaware is to be honest and speak truth in love. What are some truthful things spoken to you that caused you to want to know more about Jesus?

3. The Lost Son

Read Luke 15:11-32. What part of this parable most resonates with you? Why?

Throughout the three parables we have explored three groups of lost people. Which of these groups most reflect your journey to Jesus?

- Lost people who know they are lost and want to be found
- Lost people who don't know they are lost
- Lost people who know they are lost but don't want to be found...yet

Re-read Luke 15:20-24. The loving response of the father is a pivotal moment in this parable. It's not hard to picture the parable father as a man who prayerfully awaited his son's return. Likewise, we must be patient and pray for the lost sons and daughters in our lives.

Take three minutes and write the names of those in your life who fall under the following:

Lost sheep

Lost coin

Lost sons and daughters

What will you take away from today's lesson and how can you apply it to your life?

Prayer

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal a deeper understanding of the Father's love for the lost. Pray for opportunities to reflect God's heart to broken people. Also, take time to ask for specific prayer requests from those in your small group.