

## ***Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers***

(A Journey Through the Gospel of Luke)

“The Heart of the Father”

Luke 15

July 5, 2026

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### **Big Idea**

Disciple-makers pursue lost people because they share the heart of the Father, who relentlessly seeks, lovingly restores, and joyfully celebrates the lost.

### **Disciple-Making Focus**

God rejoices over restored people. So should we.

### **I. Disciple-Makers \_\_\_\_\_ the Lost with Purpose (vv. 1-7)**

*“I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don’t need repentance.”*  
(Luke 15:7, CSB)

### **Key Truth:**

Disciple-makers intentionally pursue people because Jesus intentionally pursued them.

### **II. Disciple-Makers \_\_\_\_\_ People Like Heaven Does (vv. 8-10)**

*“I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who repents.”* (Luke 15:10, CSB)

### **Key Truth:**

Disciple-makers see people as eternal treasures, not projects.

### **III. Disciple-Makers \_\_\_\_\_ the Heart of the Father (vv. 11-32)**

*“But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him.”*  
(Luke 15:20, CSB)

*“For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.”* (Luke 15:24, NIV)

### **Key Truth:**

Disciple-makers rejoice when people come home because they share the heart of the Father.

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## Small Group Questions — Week 18

### Follow Me — and I Will Make You Fishers

Week 18: The Heart of the Father

Text: Luke 15

#### Start Here — Reflective Question

Have you ever lost something that was valuable to you? How hard did you search for it, and how did you feel when you finally found it?

#### Read the Passage

Have someone read **Luke 15** aloud before discussion.

#### Discussion Questions

##### 1. The Lost Sheep — Luke 15:1–7

Jesus tells of a shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep to search for one that is lost.

- Why do you think Jesus began with this story after the Pharisees criticized Him for welcoming sinners?
- What does the shepherd's persistence teach us about God's love?
- Why is it significant that the shepherd searches until he finds the sheep?
- How does this challenge the way we think about people who seem far from God?

##### 2. The Lost Coin — Luke 15:8–10

The woman carefully searches for one missing coin and celebrates when she finds it.

- What similarities do you notice between this story and the lost sheep?
- Jesus says heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents. What does that reveal about God's priorities?
- The sermon said, "**What heaven celebrates should become what the church celebrates.**" What does that statement mean to you?
- How can we keep people—not programs or preferences—at the center of our ministry?

##### 3. The Lost Son — Luke 15:11–32

Jesus concludes with the story often called "The Prodigal Son."

- What stands out most to you about the father's response when his son returns?
- How did the younger son misunderstand his father's heart?
- How did the older son misunderstand his father's heart?
- Why do you think Jesus included both brothers in the story?

The sermon said: "**One son was lost in rebellion. The other was lost in religion.**"

- What warning does that hold for believers today?

#### 4. Disciple-Makers Reflect the Father's Heart

The Disciple-Making Focus this week was:

**"Disciple-makers pursue lost people because they share the heart of the Father."**

- Why is it easy for churches to become inward-focused?
- What attitudes keep us from pursuing people who are far from God?
- How can we intentionally develop the Father's heart for people around us?

#### Disciple-Making Connection

Throughout Luke 15, Jesus shows us that God actively seeks people who are far from Him.

Who is one person God has placed in your life that may be wandering spiritually?

- What makes you think God is already working in their life?
- What is one simple way you could encourage or begin a spiritual conversation with them this week?
- How can this group pray for that person?

#### Close Together

Spend time praying together.

Pray that God would:

- Give you the heart of the Shepherd who seeks the lost.
- Help you see people through the Father's eyes.
- Remove any pride or self-righteousness that keeps you from loving others well.
- Open doors for spiritual conversations this week.
- Draw those who are far from Him back into His family.

#### Weekly Challenge

Each morning this week, pray:

**"Father, help me see the people around me the way You see them. Show me one person to pursue with Your love today."**

Then intentionally take one step toward that person—a conversation, an invitation, an act of kindness, or simply letting them know you are praying for them.