

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

In this powerful message from Luke 15—what some call the "Gospel within the Gospel"—Pastor Andrew unpacked three parables that reveal God's relentless, pursuing grace. Through the Lost Sheep (1%), the Lost Coin (10%), and the Lost Son (50%), Jesus shows us that the Kingdom's "Return on Investment" isn't measured in dollars but in souls. Each parable follows the same rhythm: Loss, Search, Recovery, and Rejoicing. The shepherd leaves 99 sheep to find one wanderer. The woman lights a lamp and sweeps her entire house for one coin. The father runs to embrace his rebellious son, bearing the shame publicly to restore him. Pastor Andrew challenged us to stop counting "the 99" and start searching for those who feel lost—in our church, our neighbourhoods, and our spheres of influence. Grace pursues every individual, refuses to give up, and bears all shame for the joy of restoration.

SHARE

Think of a time when you lost something valuable (keys, wallet, phone, etc.). How did you feel while searching for it? What did you do when you finally found it? How does that experience connect to what Jesus is teaching in Luke 15?

READ

Read **Luke 15:1-32** together out loud as a group. Consider having different people read the three parables (vv. 3-7, vv. 8-10, vv. 11-32).

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. Look closely at Luke 15:1-2. Who is Jesus' audience, and why does that matter for understanding these three parables? How does the context of the Pharisees and teachers of the law "grumbling" shape the theological message Jesus is communicating about God's character?

3. In Luke 15:7 and 15:10, Jesus speaks of “joy in heaven” and “joy in the presence of God’s angels” over one sinner who repents. What does this reveal about God’s heart and priorities? How does this contrast with how we often measure success or value in our own lives and churches?

4. Pastor Andrew pointed out that leaving 99 sheep to find 1 seems “foolish and economically reckless” by human standards. How does this challenge our pragmatic, profit-driven thinking—both personally and as a church community?

5. In the parable of the Lost Son, the father runs to meet his son “while he was still a long way off” (Luke 15:20). Pastor Andrew emphasized that the father took the shame of running publicly to prevent his son from facing the community’s scorn alone. How should this shape the way we extend forgiveness and welcome to others?

6. The older brother’s response reveals a different kind of “lostness”—being physically home but relationally distant from the father. Pastor Andrew noted that many in our multi-generational immigrant community struggle with family tensions and feeling “out of place.” How can we, as a small group, show mercy and radical kindness to both the “rebellious” and the “bitter obedient” in our own families and church?

7. Pastor Andrew challenged us to “stop counting the 99” and “start searching” for those who have wandered away or feel lost in our community. Who comes to mind when you hear this—someone disconnected from church, new to the area, or searching for belonging? How can our small group become a place of “open door, open heart, open arms” welcome? Would you consider taking the practical step of welcoming newcomers to our Small Group by filling out the “**Be A Host Group**” form?

NEXT STEPS:

Light a lamp and sweep: Identify one person in your life (family member, friend, neighbour, coworker) who seems spiritually lost or disconnected. Pray for them daily this week and look for an opportunity to reach out with a text, call, or coffee invitation.

Join a team: Consider how you can participate in Cornerstone’s outreach efforts. Sign up to serve in a ministry that connects with those who are far from God or new to the church.

Practice radical hospitality: This week, extend grace to someone who has hurt you or someone you find difficult to love. Take a concrete step toward reconciliation or kindness, bearing in mind how the father ran to embrace his son.

PRAY:

Spend time praying together as a group:

- Praise God for His relentless, pursuing grace that never gives up on us.
- Confess areas where you’ve been more like the older brother—resentful, self-righteous, or unwilling to celebrate when others receive grace.
- Ask God to reveal the “Pacos” in your life—those who are hungry for acceptance and forgiveness—and give you courage to reach out.

- Pray for Cornerstone to be a church with open doors, open hearts, and open arms, where everyone belongs regardless of their past.

CONNECT:
Check out **The Hub** for upcoming community events, workshops, or service opportunities where your group can come alongside others in our Markham-Stouffville community. Look for ways to be part of the "search teams" reaching those who feel lost or disconnected.

CLOSING:
As you go this week, remember: Grace pursues. Grace refuses to give up. Grace bears all shame for the joy of restoration. You are called to be agents of that grace—lighting lamps, sweeping houses, running toward the lost, and celebrating every return. May you live out the way of grace in your homes, workplaces, and neighbourhoods, reflecting the heart of the Father who rejoices over every soul that comes home.