

STUDY GUIDE

September 29



STAY IN THE LOOP

Announcements

- We have a couple of LifeClasses and Bible Study groups starting this week. Please check out our website and get equipped for your faith journey!

START WITH PRAYER

Use this Prayer Prompt

Thank God for his love for all humankind in spite of all our quirks and flaws. Ask God to fill us with His love for others - especially those who are outside of what is familiar to us. Ask God to use us to further His Kingdom.

STUDY THE BIBLE

Think through and discuss your reactions as you read through Scripture:

Luke 15:1-7

Isaiah 53:6

John 10:16

Acts 1:8

Acts 15:5-11; 16-19

STIR UP DISCUSSION

How does this week's teaching affect me personally?

1. Reflect on a time when you felt radically accepted, either by a person or by God. How did it impact you, and how can you

extend that same level of acceptance to others in our church or community?

2. How do you see the dynamics of insiders and outsiders playing out in modern church communities? What steps can we take to make church a place where everyone feels they belong, regardless of their background or past?
3. Jesus' love is more powerful than shame and can transform lives. How can we practically demonstrate Jesus' love to those who feel burdened by shame or guilt?
4. In what ways can we be more intentional about looking for and welcoming the "lost sheep" in our lives?
5. The sequence of belonging, believing, and behaving/becoming part of a church community is reversed from the world's usual order. Discuss how the order of belonging first can lead to a more authentic and impactful transformation in someone's life. How does this approach challenge traditional views of church membership and community involvement?

STEP INTO ACTION

Let's try to apply this by taking some Next Steps.

1. ***You can tell what matters to a person by what they are looking for.*** What matters to God is people. How much do people matter to you?
2. ***You can tell how much something matters to a person by how hard they look for it.*** We have all lost our way and Jesus wants us to know that He is the shepherd and He goes after lost sheep. Those inside and those outside of the church. How are you reaching out to outsiders?
3. ***You can tell what someone believes by how hard they celebrate when they find what they are looking for.*** Love and celebrate those who are finding their way back to Jesus.