

# THE PRODIGAL GOD: THE PEOPLE

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## MESSAGE RECAP

This week, we open the series “The Prodigal God” by examining Luke 15, where Jesus tells three parables to address the criticism he faced for spending time with sinners. Through the stories of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son, Jesus reveals the heart of God—a heart that relentlessly pursues the lost and celebrates their return. The focus was on understanding the audience Jesus addressed: tax collectors, sinners, and the Pharisees. The challenge for us is to consider which character we resonate with and how we can respond to God’s extravagant love.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is something valuable you’ve lost and later found? How did it feel when you recovered it?
2. Understanding the Audience.
  - a. Read Luke 15:1-2. How did the religious leaders react to Jesus’ spending time with sinners? Why do you think this bothered them?
3. Processing the first two parables:
  - a. Read Luke 15:3-10. In the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin, what do you notice about the actions of the shepherd and the women? How does their determination to find what was lost reflect God’s love for us?
  - b. What emotions might the shepherd and the women have felt when they found what was lost? How do these emotions compare to how God feels when we return to Him?
4. Reflecting on the Prodigal Son:
  - a. Read Luke 15:32. How do you relate to the younger son, the older brother, or the father in the story? What emotions did each character experience?
5. The Father’s joy at his son’s return reflects God’s joy when we repent. How does understanding God’s extravagant love impact the way you view yourself and others?
6. Who in your life might need to experience God’s love through you this week?