"Lost, Loved, Found"

Cynthia Cavanaugh

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Getting to Know You

Ice-breakers are designed to establish common ground, help you get to know other people, and share a little bit about your life.

1. Which children's book did you want to listen to on repeat when you were little, or, which do your children want to hear again and again?
2. What's the most consequential item you've ever lost?
3. Jesus is often referred to as our shepherd. Which other titles do you find yourself using in reference to him?

Digging Deeper

These questions are designed to help you dig deeper into the sermon topic, relevant scriptures, and provide deeper opportunities for reflection

1. Many times in Scripture, we are referred to as "sheep." How do you feel about that? A little offended? Comforted? Perplexed?
   And…How is it intended?

2. Sheep need a shepherd. Even so, they wander and misbehave. How have you seen this in your own life, maybe the teen years, when you needed your parents but still went away from the guardrails they put up for you?

   3."The Pharisees and teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." The two verbs are important here: the mortals mutter and Jesus welcomes.
   Think about a time when you saw someone that you might have thought unworthy to receive money, attend an occasion…for whatever reason. Did you find yourself muttering (even if only to yourself)? How would you envision Jesus's reception of them in contrast to your own?

4. The Samaritan woman leaves her water jar – the very thing she'd gone to the well to fill, and the disciples urge Jesus to eat food – the very thing they'd gone to town to get for him. Both leave what is seemingly most important. Can you think

of other times during Jesus's ministry where people thought A was most important until Jesus showed them that B is what is most important.

5. Read Luke 15: 5-7. It says he joyfully puts the sheep on his shoulders. He then urges others to rejoice with him. How much do our hearts bleed for that lost one? What lengths do we go to compassionately pursue those we know are lost?

   What do you think that rejoicing in heaven looks like? Why do you think we focus more on accommodating the 99 than the one?

Application

The goal is life transformation, not simple discussion. Application is how we live differently because of this week's teachings and discussions

1. The order Cynthia used was lost, loved, found. Often we require a different order, like found, restored, then loved. What order do you find yourself requiring (probably subconsciously) with people that is different from the order Jesus uses with us.

Prayer Requests

Take time to record prayer requests here. Confidentiality is an important part of a healthy small group.