

Marinating in God's Word: Luke 15:1-7

Jesus was truly the master storyteller. Because the truth he told was often beyond simple understanding, he used stories to tell that truth, like the story of the shepherd and the lost sheep.

For further reflection on your own or in a small group, consider these questions:

- When Jesus tells a story it's well to notice who's listening. Who is the audience here (v. 1-3)? What did each group value and disdain?
- How might a sheep get lost? How about a person? When was a time when you were lost – spiritually, emotionally, professionally, etc.? Whose fault was your “lostness”? How does fault factor into the shepherd's determination to find the sheep?
- Each of the parables in this chapter features something or someone who is lost, and who is then passionately sought. Jesus means to represent God as the passionate seeker, and us as those sought. How has that worked for you? How did God seek you?
- Do the math. If the shepherd already had 99 sheep secured, why would he rejoice over just one found? What does that tell you about God? About the church?
- Who is the lost one you're currently praying to be found?

Next week we will focus on Matthew 5:10-12.