

Making disciples: sermon notes

discussion guide

based on **Luke 15:1-7** (Linked to sermon of 27/03/2022)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/talks



Worship: Begin by reading Psalm 23 or listening to <https://youtu.be/8OIMGnPUAdw> . Spend some time praising God for being our Shepherd and what that means to you.

Introduction: Before you begin reading the Scripture, spend some time discussing what you think the role of a Shepherd is and perhaps write these down. Later you can compare and contrast them with how Jesus is described as our Shepherd in the Bible.

Head: Read through Luke 15:1-7 and discuss the following

1. What is Jesus' reason for telling this story?
2. How do you think the story answers the grumbling of the Pharisees?
3. Who do you think are represented in the story as a) the Shepherd b) the 99 sheep c) the lost sheep?
4. From whose perspective is the story told and why do you think it is?
5. How does the Shepherd react when he finds the sheep? Are you surprised by this reaction?
6. How does heaven react to a lost soul saved?

Heart: What surprised or disturbed you about your reading of this parable? Was there anything that stood out for you? Discuss among yourselves.

Now go back to your list of the Shepherd's roles. How well does it compare to the Shepherd in the story? Throughout Scripture, God/Jesus is described as the Shepherd and us as sheep. Have a look at a few of these Scriptures and discuss what they tell you about God's/Jesus' character and our own:

Isaiah 53:6-7
John 10:11-18
Psalm 95:7
Isaiah 40:11
Ezekiel 34:11-16

Hands:

Jesus goes after the one, leaving all the other sheep safely behind. So often we feel immobilised because the task of reaching the lost feels so huge but Jesus goes after the one! Think of one individual who you consider to be "lost" at the moment. How can you be there for them, care for them, lift them up as Jesus lifted the sheep on his shoulders?

Spend some time praying in small groups for these individuals and commit yourself to pray regularly for them and consider ways in which you can support them.