

# WHAT MAKES GOD HAPPY?

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

God seeks us until He finds us. God is happy when people repent and come to Him!

## INTRODUCTION

Share a “lost and found” story. What emotions did you experience in losing and finding something?

In what way is the Bible a “lost and found” story? How did you discover this?

## UNDERSTANDING

**READ LUKE 15:1-10**

Based on the three parables in Luke 15, what causes God to have joy? How does the context provide a contrast (Luke 15:1-3)? Out of all God’s attributes, why might we overlook His joy (1 Chronicles 16:27; Luke 10:21)?

*God is portrayed as a shepherd seeking lost sheep (Isaiah 40:11; John 10:11).* Why might this be a surprising metaphor? What does it reveal about God’s character?

*We are portrayed as sheep needing a shepherd (Isaiah 53:6).* What does this imply about our human nature? How have you recognized your sheep-like tendencies?

*The shepherd finds joy bringing His sheep home (1 Timothy 2:4).* Why is God happy when people repent and come to Him? How can you explain this truth when sharing your faith?

***Heaven is aware of what happens on earth (v.10). How should the attention of Heaven impact our focus on earth (Hebrews 12:1)?***

***We will find joy in bringing others to Christ (3 John 1:4). Why should evangelism be exciting? How can this focus help us overcome fear or intimidation?***

***God will never stop loving us or longing for us to come to Him (v.8). How is this truth illustrated in the diligent mission of Christ (Luke 19:10; Hebrews 12:2)?***

***To get right with God, we must repent (v.10). What is the difference between remorse and repentance (2 Corinthians 7:9-10)? Why should repentance lead to rejoicing?***

## **APPLICATION**

**How do you personalize the truth that the Lord is your shepherd (Psalm 23; 100:3; Galatians 2:20)? Like the lost sheep or coin, how does it make you feel to know that you bring joy to God?**

**Pastor Greg explained, “The happiest Christians are evangelistic Christians.” How have you experienced this to be true? What causes you to lose focus on evangelism, and how does this affect you?**

**Pastor Greg said, “Jesus is still in the business of healing what is broken, restoring what is lost, and touching what everyone else declared untouchable.” How does your heart for the lost reflect God’s heart (Matthew 9:35-38)? How can you view people the same way that Jesus does?**

## **PRAYER**

Thank God for being your shepherd—although you were once lost, you are now found in Christ! Pray that you will communicate God’s joy through your worship and witness, and that others will repent and come to Christ.