



Sermon Discussion Guide

The Heart of Christ: Jesus' Heart

Luke 15:1-2

January 23 & 24, 2021

Part 1: Pray

The primary goal for our Life Group meetings is to experience Jesus in our midst in his presence and power. We want him to be at work by His Spirit, ministering to us and through us to one another so that people are cared for and encouraged to lead God pleasing lives. Ask God to reveal his truth in this passage to transform you through your discussion time.

Part 2: Read the Text

Read the passage(s) from the sermon. Keep a focus on key words, repeated phrases or major themes.

Part 3: Reflect on the Sermon

Introduction

1. What is it about Jesus that first drew you to him?

2. In Luke 15, we see that Jesus attracted sinners and tax collectors, the outsiders of society, people scorned by the religious elite. Is our church a safe place for outsiders? Are we attractive to the "outcasts" of society? If not, why?

The Heart of Jesus: Startling Beauty (Ps. 27:4; Ps. 90:17).

1. The Russian writer Dostoevsky once said, "Beauty will save the world." Take a few moments and discuss the ways that Scripture affirms this truth.

2. When we think about Jesus, beauty is not always the first thing that comes to our minds. We may think of him more as savior, truthful, or sinless and righteous (all of which are true!). How would you normally characterize Jesus? Is beauty high on your list? How is Jesus beautiful?
3. What our culture needs most from the church is for Christians to make the heart of Jesus irresistible and unforgettable. Ray gave some great examples of people who demonstrate the heart of Jesus in their actions (Mother Theresa, for example). What are some tangible things you can do this week to make Jesus more lovely to the people you interact with? What are some ways our church can make Jesus more lovely to Citrus County?
4. Why does physical beauty matter? How are the fountain in front of our church and the beauty of our sanctuary *missional*?

The Heart of Jesus: Tender Friend (John 15:13, 15; Matt. 11:17; Prov. 18:24; Rev. 3:22).

1. In what ways have good friendships impacted your life? What makes someone a good friend? How is Jesus our friend?
2. To say that Jesus is our friend is to say both that he enjoys spending time with us and that he is committed to us. Does it surprise you to hear that Jesus not only loves you but also *likes* you? That he wants to be with you not only for your good but for his, because he delights in you? How does believing this transform us?
3. Ray said, "If you're befriended by Jesus, then befriend like Jesus." What kinds of people does Jesus befriend? What kinds of people do you befriend? Who are the people in your life whom God might be calling you to reach out to in friendship?

4. According to Ray, the best thing that we can do for our country right now is to stop being mad about socialism, transgenderism, abortion, etc., and to go be a friend. Why is this?

Part 4: Summarize the Message

How would you summarize the sermon to someone who has never heard it? What are your two or three key takeaways from the message and your discussion?

How does this sermon change your perspective on God? Your own heart? And/or, how to follow Jesus?