

**Dig Deeper @Home – “Cultivating Heavenly Possibilities”
Complement to sermon on 01/31/2021 – “Rejoicing”**

ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered

1. When was the last time you were overcome with joy? How did you respond?
2. What was the most valuable or precious thing you have ever lost?

MEMORIZE – Matthew 7: 24-25

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

READ Luke 15

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What does the Holy Spirit draw your attention to as you read this passage? What sticks out to you?
2. What is this passage revealing about God? About us as humans?
3. What is the immediate response of the man who lost his sheep, or the woman who misplaced her coin? (Luke 15:4,8) If the sheep and the coin represent those who are “lost” or unsaved, what does this tell us about God’s love for them?
4. According to this passage, how does heaven respond when a sinner repents?
Hint: (15:7,10,24)
5. All three parables in Luke 15 note that the rejoicing experienced after the lost was found was experienced communally. Both the man who lost his sheep and the woman who lost the coin “called (his/her) friends and neighbors together, saying to them, Rejoice with me!” Biblical descriptions of heaven depict many people surrounding the throne rejoicing together. The father of the prodigal son throws a massive party! What role does community or friendship play in your rejoicing? Does it? Should it?

Experiential activity – “Rejoice, the lost is found!”

Luke 15:8-10 tells the story of a woman who lost a coin but rejoiced greatly upon finding it. This week, take a \$5 bill and write “Luke 15:8-10” on it somewhere with a sharpie and hide it in your house. (Is writing on money illegal? Shh... I won't tell!) If you live with several people, specifically children, let them know that you have done this and inform them that whoever finds the bill will be able to keep it! When the bill is found, perhaps even weeks from today, read the Scripture together and discuss how the rejoicing that was felt when the money was found is a picture of the “joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents!”

If you live alone, or no children live in the house, hide the bill anyway, you'd be amazed how quickly you will forget you have done so! In two months when you are dusting under the end table, you'll have a small surprise! If you have the money to spare, hide it instead on a visit to a friend's house (without telling them), or in some public place where a stranger will stumble upon it. Perhaps they will read the verse and be encouraged!

SING (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Revelation Song - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3IUqz10ARE>

Run to the Father - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33-oeb_LGPU

Great is Thy Faithfulness – Mennonite Hymnal #534

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer/blessing based on the lesson:

“Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

As you pray these words, know that your prayers are as a gold bowl of sweet-smelling incense rising before the throne of the Father, contributing to the rejoicing in heaven! (Revelation 5:8)
As you rise from prayer to live out these words, know that you bring the rejoicing of heaven to earth!