

for the one

Leader's Guide – For the One

Luke 15 | Pastor Dave Bennett | February 1, 2026

Session Overview

This session launches the church-wide journey, “For the One,” built around the heart of Luke 15. Jesus responds to religious muttering not with correction alone, but with a story that reveals the heartbeat of heaven. The shepherd, the woman, and the father all show the same truth: heaven’s joy is centered on the one who is lost being found.

This discussion invites the group to examine whether their hearts align more with the seeking Father or the resistant elder brother, and to begin living intentionally for the one God has placed in their lives.

Leader Coaching Sidebar: Keeping the Focus on the Heart of the Father

- Keep the tone invitational, not condemning.
- Redirect comparison statements back to grace.
- If discussion shifts to church programs, refocus on people.
- Watch for elder-brother language and gently reframe it.
- Celebrate every story of someone being reached.
- Close by helping the group name their one.

Session Flow (60–75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

Example Question:

“Can you remember a time when someone went out of their way just for you? How did that affect you?”

Purpose:

To connect personally with the idea of being valued as ‘the one.’

2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read Luke 15:1–2 aloud.

Summarize the three parables (sheep, coin, sons).

3. Discussion (40–50 min)

Use 6–8 of the following questions depending on time and group size.

Encourage reflection on God’s heart, not just the mechanics of the stories.

Discussion Questions

1. Luke 15 begins with people drawn to Jesus and religious leaders muttering. Why do you think love attracts the needy but sometimes irritates the comfortable?

Leader Note: Contrast compassion with control and comfort.

2. In each story, the focus is on the one. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes the one rather than the many?

Leader Note: Highlight value, attention, and heaven’s priorities.

3. The value increases from sheep to coin to son. What does this progression teach us about how God values people?

Leader Note: Move from material worth to relational worth.

4. The father throws a party, but the elder brother resists. What attitudes can keep us from celebrating when lost people come home?

Leader Note: Explore comparison, entitlement, and grace.

5. The elder brother thought he deserved more. How can performance-based faith keep us from understanding grace?

Leader Note: Help the group contrast slave mindset vs. sonship.

6. Heaven rejoices when one sinner repents. What does that reveal about what truly matters to God?

Leader Note: Redirect focus from success metrics to salvation.

7. Who might be ‘your one’ right now — someone far from God but on your heart?

Leader Note: Encourage specific names, not abstract ideas.

8. What would it look like to pray, serve, invite, and give for your one this month?

Leader Note: Transition toward personal application.

4. Application and Prayer (10–15 min)

Invite each person to silently name their 'one.'

Ask: "What is one step you can take this week to reflect the Father's heart toward them?"

Allow a moment of silence before praying together.

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Father, thank You for pursuing us when we were lost.

Shape our hearts to love what You love and celebrate what heaven celebrates.

Give us courage to seek the one, patience to walk with them, and joy when they come home.

Amen.