

for the **one**

Leader's Guide – You Are the One

Luke 15:1–7 | Pastor Jon Gerlach | February 15, 2026

Session Overview

This session centers on Jesus' heart for the one who is lost. In Luke 15, Jesus responds to religious muttering with a story that reveals the compassion of the Good Shepherd. While many gather around Him, His focus is not on the crowd alone but on the one who has wandered away.

This discussion invites the group to reflect on both sides of the story: recognizing ourselves as the one Jesus rescues and aligning our lives with His mission to seek and celebrate the lost.

Session Flow (60–75 minutes)

1. Welcome and Icebreaker (10 min)

Example Question:

“Have you ever felt personally pursued or cared for by someone? What made that moment meaningful?”

Purpose:

To connect the group emotionally to the idea of being the one pursued by the Shepherd.

2. Scripture Reading (5 min)

Read Luke 15:1–7 aloud.

Optional: Reference John 10 (The Good Shepherd) for added context.

3. Discussion (40–50 min)

Use 6–8 of the following questions depending on time and group size.
Encourage personal reflection more than theological debate.

Leader Coaching Sidebar: Keeping the Focus on Rescue, Not Religion

- Keep the tone welcoming and grace-filled.
- If conversation becomes critical of others, redirect toward personal reflection.
- Encourage stories of restoration rather than arguments.
- Remind the group that everyone is both rescued and sent.
- Celebrate vulnerability and honesty.
- End by pointing back to the Good Shepherd's heart.

Discussion Questions

1. Luke begins with sinners gathering around Jesus while religious leaders mutter. Why does grace attract some people while unsettling others?

Leader Note: Help the group notice posture differences between humility and religious pride.

2. The shepherd leaves ninety-nine sheep to pursue one. What does this teach us about God's priorities?

Leader Note: Emphasize value, not efficiency.

3. Sheep often wander because they follow their hunger. Where do you see people today chasing things that lead them away from God?

Leader Note: Keep tone compassionate, not judgmental.

4. Stories like the widow, Nicodemus, and Peter show Jesus meeting people personally. What stands out to you about how He engages individuals?

Leader Note: Highlight Jesus' individual care.

5. Many of us have our own rescue stories. How has Jesus pursued or restored you personally?

Leader Note: Invite testimony but never force sharing.

6. Why is it sometimes hard to believe that we ourselves are 'the one' Jesus came to rescue?

Leader Note: Explore shame, doubt, or performance mindset.

7. If heaven celebrates when one person turns toward Him, how should that shape the way the church celebrates people?

Leader Note: Connect heaven's joy with church culture.

8. Who might be a 'one' in your life that God is inviting you to pray for or pursue with love?

Leader Note: Move toward personal application.

4. Application and Prayer (10–15 min)

Invite each person to consider where they see themselves in the story — the wandering sheep, the rescued one, or the one being sent.

Ask: "What is one step you can take this week to follow the Shepherd more closely or help someone else encounter Him?"

Allow a moment of silence before praying together.

Closing Prayer Suggestion

Good Shepherd, thank You for pursuing us when we wander.

Help us hear Your voice, follow Your lead, and reflect Your heart toward others.

May our lives align with Your mission so that many more ones are found and celebrated.

Amen.