**LEADERS NOTES**

**Brockley Homegroup Bible Study – March 2024**

**15**Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. **2**But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

**3**Then Jesus told them this parable: **4**“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? **5**And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders **6**and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ **7**I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 15

At Brockley, we are starting a mini-series on Luke chapter 15.
March 3rd - The Lost sheep (Jack Warnock and Simon Ladd),
March 17th - The Lost Coin (Sarah-Jane Harknett,)
March 31 - EASTER SUNDAY,
April 14th - The Lost Son (Paul Morris)
April 28th - The Other Lost Son (Simon Ladd)

Q1
What is your best story about losing something and finding it again?

Q2
What do you think is meant by tax-collectors and sinners in verse 1?

Q3
How does Jesus make this story interesting and engaging? And what should we learn from this about preaching in a way that helps people want to hear?

Q4
This is a parable – a story to help us understand deeper truth. Make a list of the main characters in the story and then discuss who the different characters are meant to represent.

Q5
How does the shepherd react when he realizes one sheep is missing? What does the shepherd's actions tell us about God's attitude towards those who are lost?

Q6
Which character do you see yourself as in this story?

Q7 What does the sheep have to do in this story to be saved?

A7
The answer is bleat. This shepherd knows his sheep. He knows which one is missing. He goes out searching and calls out for the sheep – and the sheep hearing the shepherds voice would answer back with a bleat.

To be saved we only have to call out. (Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved, ROMANS 10:13) Jesus does the searching and the rescuing. The sheep doesn’t even have to walk home! The shepherd carries it.

Q8
How much joy is there in this story and the other lost and found stories in Luke 15. How much joy did you see in the church of your upbringing? Do they match up?

Q9
What should churches (and our church, and us) be learning from this story?

**For Further reflection:**
What if this story started, suppose you have 1000 sheep, or a million, or a billion. There is no number when the one missing sheep becomes an acceptable loss.

**The Hound of Heaven**
There is a poem, that needs updating now, by Francis Thompson written in 1890 called The Hound of Heaven. It’s a long poem and speaks Francis continued rejection of God – but of God’s love pursuing him like a hound.

*I fled Him, down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him, down the arches of the years;
I fled Him, down the labyrinthine ways
Of my own mind; and in the midst of tears
I hid from Him,*

But he is always aware of God’s love, padding along behind him

*Still with unhurrying chase,
And unperturbed pace,
Deliberate speed, majestic instancy,
Came on the following Feet,*