

WEEK 3

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

LOST AND FOUND

Have you ever been lost? Maybe you wandered away from your parents, took a wrong turn, or lost track of your friends in a crowd? It can be scary to realize you're not sure where you are or how to get home again, and the same thing is true when it comes to our faith. See, you and I were created to be close to the God who made and loves us. But some of us don't know our Creator yet. And some of us know Jesus but we wander (or at least we feel) far away from Him. In this 4-week series, we'll explore a series of stories Jesus once told about things that were lost and then got found again. Through those stories, we'll discover that **Jesus notices you, values you, welcomes you back when you've strayed, and invites you to the party** when others come home.

THIS WEEK

THE BIG IDEA

Jesus welcomes you back.

THE BIBLE

Luke 15:11-24; Romans 2:1-4,
Ephesians 2:1-10

- Have you ever accidentally thrown something away that you regretted? What was it?
- What are some mistakes or poor decisions that people your age sometimes make?
- How might someone's mistakes or poor decisions disconnect them from people they love? What about from God?
- Have you ever felt far away from God? Why do you think you felt that way? How did you get close to God again?
- Read Ephesians 2:1-10. Where do you see the runaway son in these verses? Where do you see yourself?
- What does Jesus' story about the runaway son teach us about who God is?
- When you've been around people who follow Jesus, how have you felt welcomed (or not welcomed)?
- What do you think our church can do to be more welcoming to others – especially people who have wandered away from God?
- When is it difficult for you to be welcoming to others?
- This week, what will you do to welcome others in the same way that Jesus welcomes you back?