

### **Taking it Home:**

- Heaven was rejoicing while the Pharisees grumbled at the repentance of tax collectors and sinners. With whom do you most often identify: the grumblers or the ones rejoicing?
- Warren Wiersbe writes, “To be “found” (saved) means that you are back in place (reconciled to God), back in service (life has a purpose), and out of danger.” How does being reconciled to God and knowing you have purpose drive what you will be about this week? Consider Romans 5:8 and 8:37-39 if you are unsure.
- The man left 99 sheep to find the lost one. The woman turned over her house looking for the lost coin. Each did EVERYTHING he or she could to find that which was lost. Pray and ask God how you can specifically demonstrate His active love to those you know who are do not yet know Jesus as savior. Who can you pray for? What can you do to demonstrate that love to another?

### **Additional Action for Growth:**

- Evangelism Training with Dr. Larry Moyer on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Bethel.
- Bring a person who does not know Jesus to the Wild Game Feed on January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Share your faith story with another person intentionally celebrating God’s work in your life.

*Rejoicing in Heaven*  
Luke 15: 1-7

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Bethel Church  
January 1, 2012

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## ***Rejoicing in Heaven***

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelfc.com](http://www.bethelfc.com).

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of January 1, 2012

Luke 15: 1-7

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**Quick Review:** Jesus welcomed outcasts and the outcasts welcomed Him. They listened to His stories and responded. Meanwhile, the Pharisees grumbled at Jesus' teaching. We see in Luke 15 that the religious leaders were out of sync with heaven. Jesus tells a story of a lost sheep and a lost coin and the joy that is experienced when these items are found. This joy is but a taste of the joy experienced when a lost sinner repents. All of heaven celebrates when sinners repent!

## My Story:

- Describe what you were feeling the last time you searched for something you lost. How did you celebrate when you found it?
- Have you ever watched a sporting event when you knew for sure your team was going to lose and then, with seconds left, won the game? Share in your group what that was like. How did you react?

## Growing Deeper:

- 1 Peter 2:25 and Isaiah 53:6 describe the lost condition of all men and women. Mark 10:45 and Hebrews 12:2 summarize Jesus' rescue mission. According to Luke 15:7 & 10, all of heaven rejoices when a sinner repents. Read each of these verses and contemplate how the story of the Bible is the story of God's love for mankind and His mission of seeking and saving.
- Jesus was often in conflict with the Pharisees. How do Luke 5:30-32 and 19:1-10 reinforce what you read in chapter 15:1-10? What pattern do you see developed and how does Jesus respond? What does this tell you about God's heart for the lost?
- In Acts 11: 15 and Galatians 2 we see that welcoming outsiders into the church has not always been an easy process. How would you describe this struggle of the early church in your own words? If you see this as a challenge today, how do these verses instruct you to respond to the outcasts?