

# THE BIG IDEA CURRICULUM

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## Small Group Study for Week of January 18 - 24, 2008

### Luke 15: Where do we Place our Value?

This week we looked at Luke chapter 15. In studying this chapter we saw that three parables are told by Jesus in response to an accusation targeted at Him. The accusation was that Jesus welcomed tax collectors and sinners and what was worse, He ate with them. The ones making the accusation are the Pharisees and teachers of the law. In this sermon it was also noted that Jesus chose at this time to not deal with this attitude aggressively (unlike John 7-9), but rather He spoke these three parables:

1. Lost Sheep
2. Lost Coin
3. Lost Son

The key point explored in these parables was the concept of value. The value that Pharisees and teachers of the law placed on sinners and tax collectors was in total contrast to the value God placed upon them.

1. Read Luke 15:1-2 followed by Luke chapter 14 and see if Jesus had dealt with this attitude before? How does this impact on the Jesus' response in chapter 15.
2. If you have time read Luke 10:25-37. What is the central issue in this chapter? And how does this lay the foundation for what Luke writes in chapter 15. Note the following:
  1. Who is Jesus talking to?
  2. What is the question being asked?
  3. What is the audience reaction to the main point of the parable?

The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son are all parables dealing with how we not just treat each other but how we value each other.

3. Do we find the attitudes of these religious leaders in the Christian church today? If so, how do they show themselves? If not, why are we different?