Session 3: God's Love for the Repentant	
SESSION GOALS	
Every session has specific goals—things you want your group to walk away knowing, feeling, and doing.	
Main Idea God's celebrates when sinners repent, so we should be eager to turn from our sins toward our loving Father.	
<b>Head Change</b> To know God has paid the ultimate cost so that we might be united with him.	
<b>Heart Change</b> To feel valued as God's redeemed children.	
<b>Life Change</b> To turn from our sin toward our loving Father.	
OPEN	
What in your life gives you a reason to celebrate?	
Our celebrations reveal what we value. Birthdays celebrate a person we love. Weddings celebrate love and	
marriage. Graduation parties celebrate academic achievement. But what causes heaven to celebrate? Luke 15 gives us an answer.	
READ	
Luke 15:1–32 (If you do not have time to read all of these	
verses, read Luke 15:1–10, 28–32.)	
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## **WATCH** Before viewing the session, here are a few important things to look for in David Marvin's teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions. What makes heaven celebrate? What does this celebration teach us about God's values? Show Session 3: God's Love for the Repentant (9 minutes).

## **DISCUSS**

When confronted by the Pharisees, Jesus shared three parables about God's love for sinners. Let's take a look at	
each of these parables, starting with the parable of the	
good shepherd in Luke 15:3–7. <b>How would you describe</b>	
the shepherd's actions? In what ways does he appear responsible or irresponsible?	
responsible of irresponsible.	
What do his actions reveal about his values?	
Next, let's look at the parable of the lost coin in Luke	
15:8-10. What do you do when you have lost something of value? What do you think this woman is feeling as	
she looks for her lost coin?	
Finally, let's look at the father's actions in the parable of	
the prodigal son. <b>In verses 24 and 32, why does the</b>	
father throw a celebration for his son?	
When the younger son left home, he damaged his family's	
finances by squandering his inheritance, openly rejected	
his father's love, and left home without any intention of	
returning. But the father never recounts his son's sins. Instead, he embraces his son and welcomes him home.	
What does this teach you about God's love for you?	
Our forgiveness does not always look as perfect as God's	
forgiveness. It can be very difficult to fully forgive	
someone and welcome them back into our lives with	
open arms. When someone wrongs you, what is your disposition towards that person? What makes it difficult	
for you to fully forgive someone? What does it take for	
you to welcome a person back into your life?	
This parable shows two ways God reveals his love for us:	
he has paid the ultimate cost for us, and he and all of	
heaven celebrate when a sinner turns to him. What do does it mean to you that God has rushed out to you in	
Jesus and is celebrating that you have returned home?	
<b>Note:</b> To learn more about the price of salvation, see the	
Go Deeper section at the end of this study.	
David suggested that the conventional title for this parable may not be quite right. He defined "prodigal" as a	
person who lavishly spends their resources. And if	
anyone in this parable spends their resources lavishly, it is	

the father. What stood out to you the most about the father in the parable? If you were to rename this parable, what would you name it?	
David reminded us that we, the church, should seek out those who don't know Jesus, just like the parable of the woman searching for her lost coin. He said that the church is the light that God uses to search for the lost.  What can you do to live as a light that seeks the lost?	
LAST WORD	
God loves you more lavishly than you can possibly imagine. His forgiveness is total. His joy in you is overflowing. When you turn to him it causes heaven to celebrate, because you were lost but are now found. You were dead, but now you are alive in Christ.	
When you grasp the depth of his love for you, you cannot help but think of the gospel as good news worth sharing. And when other sinners repent, we should echo heaven in our celebration. There is nothing greater than someone who was lost being found!	
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## **GO DEEPER**

The Go Deeper section has two potential functions. It can supplement your small group discussion by providing extra discussion material. We've highlighted a place where the following segment could fit in the Discuss section of the study guide.	
But you can also use this section as a short devotional to carry you through the week until your next group meeting.	
1. The Cost of Salvation	
God's love for us is not merely emotive. That is, he does not just feel strongly towards us. God's love for us is also active and sacrificial. Through Christ, we can get a glimpse of how deep God's love for us truly is and how much he sacrificed in order to redeem us.	
Read Isaiah 53:3–6.	
According to this passage, what all did Christ do for you?	
What did his actions give you?	
Think of your personal sins that Jesus carried for you. In light of this passage, how would you describe God's deep love you?	
Read 1 Peter 1:18–20.	
According to 1 Peter, what was the price of our ransom? What did it cost God?	
God demonstrated his love for us in sending Jesus, who paid our ransom and offers us the free gift of forgiveness.  What can you do to express your thankfulness to God for his provision today?	