



*The #1 catalyst for spiritual growth is reading and reflecting on the Bible.  
Use these questions for personal study or as part of a community group experience.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

**5/6/2018**

This week is all about an Invitation to Celebration. In Luke 15, Jesus celebrates three things. As a church, we are called to celebrate the embrace of others—those unlike us. In simplicity and diversity, the gospel of Jesus is visible.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. What was most exciting to you out of what we celebrated in Sunday's service?
2. Was there an organization from Loco for Local on May 5<sup>th</sup> that you'd be interested in partnering with or supporting again in the future?
3. Read Luke 15. What stands out to you most from this chapter? If you're familiar with this passage, is there something that maybe you have not noticed before?
4. Have you lost something that meant a lot to you and then found it or had it restored to you? If so, share that experience and your response to getting it back.
5. Have you experienced a relationship that was broken and then later restored? How did that come about?
6. How does the thought of God "celebrating" sit with you? Is that surprising? Comforting? Exciting?

7. What were the Pharisees (the religious experts) complaining about in Luke 15?
  
8. What attitude did the Pharisees have toward these people? Why?
  
9. Jesus chooses to surround himself with some unlikely people. In these stories, they are labeled “sinners”. To the Pharisees, “sinners” included the unclean, the ungodly, the unlovable, the unworthy. Who might these be in our society today?
  
10. Jesus talks about celebrating these individuals and even elevating them as those most likely to respond or come close to God. What does this demonstrate about the character of God?
  
11. Grace Community Church is “A Church for People Who Don’t Go to Church”. What does this mean to you? What might this mean for those that others might consider unclean, ungodly, or unworthy?
  
12. In your interactions, do you love the “sinner”? Or would do you attempt to “protect” the faith by keeping it “pure” from those who are imperfect, dissimilar, or evil?
  
13. Jesus talks about these individuals as turning to God—being “found”. How can they be found if no one is looking for them? What can you do to begin “looking” for those who are often considered on the outside?

### **Closing Prayer**

Jesus, I thank you that your grace is extended to me despite my background, ethnicity, gender and social standing. In your love you welcomed me as I am and took me into your family with joy and celebration. Grant me the strength to welcome those who are not like me. To seek out and welcome others as you welcome them. In your name I pray, amen.