Small Group Questions
April 28, 2013
Baptism—God’s Pursuit of Us (Luke 15:1-7)

Ice Breaker: Were you baptized as an adult or an infant? Have you ever had a renewal of your baptismal vows?

Read Luke 15:1-7

- What stands out to you in the passage? Why?
- On its own, this passage has nothing to do with baptism. However, it offers a vivid illustration of what baptism represents. Drawing from Pastor Mark’s sermon, what are some of those parallels?
- In the passage the shepherd comes looking after the sheep. Read Philippians 2:6-7. How did Jesus come looking for us all?
- What difference does it make that Jesus comes looking for us, versus our “finding God?” How might this offer us assurance of our salvation?
- In contrast to other world religions, Christianity emphasizes God’s striving to reach us, versus our striving for God. What does this say about God?
- We really don’t know whether the sheep in Jesus’ parable knew it was lost. What difference does it make in our relationship to God to know that we are lost? How can this be helpful in our relationship with God? If God indeed has found us in Jesus Christ, how can this be unhelpful? (i.e., beating ourselves up …)
- In the parable, the role of the sheep is passive. The shepherd comes along and simply saves the sheep. What can we learn here about our own salvation and our own efforts toward faith? (See John 15:16)
- In the parable, Jesus brings the sheep back to the flock. In baptism we are brought back into the family of God. What does it mean to be a part of God’s family? What does it imply for how we should view ourselves? How we should live?
- In the parable, Pastor Mark suggested that the shepherd brought home the sheep first and then cleaned it up. In baptism, God brings us into His family and then cleans us up through Christ. What implications does this have for how we view church and how we might patiently nurture outsiders?
- If baptism isn’t necessary to enter eternal life, why is it important that we be baptized?
- Bonus: (But be careful to not let this divide the group) In our church both adult and infant baptism are celebrated. If God is the one who finds us, how does this offer reasoning for infant baptism? (Baptism understood this way emphasizes God’s move toward us; then as we grow, we “confirm” His love).

Application: The church reformer Martin Luther is famous for saying, “Remember your baptism.” Take time this week to remember your baptism by prayerfully noting specific steps God took to rescue you. Then tell a friend about what He did.