



Message Discussion Guide Week of January 8, 2023

Message: Reset, Part 1: Drifting

Key Scripture: [Luke 15:1-7](#)

Preacher: Tom Parkinson

Message Highlights:

The chaotic undercurrents of the past few years have many of us feeling like we have drifted off course. We wake up one day and wonder, “How did I get here?”

- We drift when we are unaware of how our choices and circumstances are affecting our life and faith.
- We drift when we are distracted and lose sight of what matters most.
- We drift when we are overwhelmed and think we’ll get around to important things when we have more time.

The result of drifting is that we feel plagued by mistakes, missteps, and missed opportunities, and wind up feeling lost.

In Jesus’ day “sinners” was a labeled applied to those who had drifted far afield from God’s chosen path. The religious leaders are assumed that leader were lost forever and should be excluded from the faith community.

Jesus told the parable of the lost sheep to illustrate that God’s response to drifters is not to abandon them, nor to wait for them to find their way back, but to seek them out.

If you’ve drifted off course in your faith, God will pursue you, find you, and bring you home.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Tom shared that people don’t decide to take their life and faith off course, but that we drift off course slowly. In what ways have the events of the past few years caused you to drift?
2. Do you ever feel like your faith needs a reset? What people and practices help you to reset?
3. Read [Luke 15:1-2](#)

- a. Why were the sinners and tax collectors gathering with Jesus? Why was his message attracting them?
 - b. Why do the Pharisees and teachers of the law “mutter.” What does their muttering tell us about their feelings toward the “tax collectors and sinners?”
4. Read [Luke 15:3-7](#)
- a. Why does Jesus choose to tell this story at this moment?
 - b. What does this parable teach about God’s character?
5. How do you respond to those who have drifted? Are you more like the Pharisees and teachers of the law, or like Jesus? What does it mean to rejoice over repentant sinners? How can you participate in Jesus’ mission to “seek and save the lost?”

Abundant Life Tip: Repentance is an essential response to the gospel. It means turning away from our sin and turning toward God. When we repent, God rejoices. If you want to experience God’s joy, don’t be shy about acknowledging your sins and flaws – regularly.