



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

**A Shepherd's Personal Devotions
Great Chapters of the Bible Series, Lesson 46**

Lesson Title: Party Chapter: Luke 15

Take Home Point: Heaven celebrates when people turn to Jesus and believe.

Warm-Up:

The story goes that several years ago a teenage girl got fed up with what she considered her parents' overbearing strictness. So one day she took all the money she could find in the house and ran away, hitching a ride to a nearby city. Her money quickly ran out and she ended up on the streets, hungry and tired, with no place to go and no one who cared. Finally, not knowing what response she would get, she called home and asked if she could return. Her father agreed to pay her bus fare, and when she arrived at the bus station in her hometown, there were dozens of people – family and friends – waiting to welcome her. At the very front of the crowd was her father, who wrapped her in his arms and said, "Let's go home."

Read: Luke 15

Observation (What happened?):

What key word does Jesus use to describe heaven's reaction to someone who was lost and is found?

Why was the older brother so angry?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the young man wanted his inheritance early?

What motivated the father to react the way he did to his son's return?

Insight:

Occasionally a significant point in a Bible event is missed because we read it from the perspective of Western culture. For example, a missionary friend once told me of his experience with a middle-eastern man who had just read this story. "What do you find most interesting in this story?" my friend asked. The man replied, "The father running to meet his son! That is not done in our culture. For a father to run like that is to humiliate himself in front of family and friends. He must have loved his son very much!" How like God this is! The Bible tells us in Philippians 2:6-8 that Jesus humbled himself to become a man. Consider how humiliating it was for him to be tried and executed as a criminal, to be mocked and scorned on the cross, for his resurrection to be doubted by his own disciples. But that is how much he loves us. He gladly took on the cross, even "scorning its shame" (Hebrews 12:2), to bring us back to our faithful heavenly Father who runs to us today when we turn to him.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Who are you waiting and praying for to return to their heavenly Father? How long are you willing to wait and pray?

Pray for the children in your small group to recognize and accept the unfailing love of God.

Kingdom Quest year 2