

HELPING PEOPLE FIND THEIR WAY HOME

Ps. Waweru Njenga – 22 January 2017

Stand Out Series

LG Discussion

Text: Luke 15:11-31

We've been going through a series called 'Stand Out;' So far we've learnt that Jesus never intended his followers to be Christians but rather "**disciples**" – which really means someone who is 100% committed to living a life of radical obedience to Him! And we've learnt that two of the ways we are meant to stand out or be distinguished as followers of Jesus is

- a. By our radical love for one another
- b. By embracing accountability.

DISCUSS: How are you doing with being a disciple and radically loving others and embracing accountability so far this month? How has it been good? How has it been challenging?

Today we get into the 3rd trait by which Jesus' followers must stand out. **READ & DISCUSS: LUKE 15:1-31**

The reading has 3 parables of 3 things that were lost and then found:

1. The Sheep – The sheep represents people who unconsciously drift away from God. It is slow & gradual and often unknown to them.
2. The Coin – The coin represents unbelievers. These are people who have no idea that they are lost.
3. The Son – The son represents people who have consciously and purposely chosen to walk away or to be lost. They know the way home but chose not to take it. It is very hard to find people like this and bring them back home, because it's impossible to find them until they are ready to be found.

DISCUSS: Have you experienced any of these conditions of being lost in your life? Share.

DISCUSS: The son, is different that the other two objects that were lost because the son has a free will and choice in being lost or not. Both of the sons in this story had an element of being lost. Which of the sons do you identify with or relate to and why?

- a. The Younger son (Prodigal Son). You know that you are in a far country, far away from God. You're doing your own thing, living your own life. Or maybe you are just coming to your senses and beginning to be homesick & to seek for God.
- b. The Elder Son. You have a relationship with God but you don't share his passion for others around you who have not had that privilege. You are preoccupied about other things. You are too busy to stand out at the gate and look out for people seeking the way home.

Both sons have redemption through Jesus when they come back to God and allow him to add meaning and purpose to their lives and both sons have a responsibility to stand out and help others just like them find their ways home.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: Who do you know that is lost and needs help finding their way home? Which category do they fall into and what can you do to help get them home?