

Building an Evangelistic Church in 2022

Luke 15:1-7

January 2, 2022

I. Interpreting the Parable

A. As holy as God is, it is still better to confess sin to Him than to people.

1. God expects to seek the lost, not the lost to seek Him.
2. God considers salvation of the lost to be His greatest work.

II. Applying the Parable

A. A healthy church has to be evangelistic.

1. An evangelistic church expects to reach the lost, not the lost to reach them.
2. An evangelistic church celebrates the salvation of lost souls more than any other success.
3. An evangelistic church considers the salvation of lost souls to be an indispensable fruit of its ministry.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read Luke 15:1-7.
2. Are there some types of non-Christians that are harder for Christians to relate to than others, like the tax collectors Jesus visited in verse 1? What are some types of non-Christians you have a hard time ministering to and why?
3. What is the difference between reaching out to sinners to save them and affirming their lifestyle as the Pharisees in verse 2 clearly thought Jesus was doing? What happens to Christians today who fail to recognize the difference?
4. Share personal testimonies about being lost in the wrong way and God reaching you. How did He reach you? How did He put you on His shoulders? How did you feel His pleasure and rejoicing when you were found?
5. How can God rejoice even more over the salvation of one nonbeliever than over 99 believers (consider consulting Luke 15:31-32)? What is different about the joy we feel when a person first becomes a Christian than the joy we feel when a Christian grows in their faith? How does that reflect Christ's heart?
6. How should heaven's joy over one sinner who repents affect the heart of our church? What are some ways you as a member can reflect that heart of God?
7. Pray for our church, that our members would be on mission among lost family and friends this holiday season. Consider coming to tonight's online church prayer meeting at 7 pm (register from the church website on the homepage).

Church Bible Reading Plan

Bible Reading Plan: Job 4-6

January Memory Verses: Job 9:2-4

Isaiah 43:18-21 (ESV)

¹⁸ Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. ¹⁹ Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild beasts will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.

BEFORE Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

The previous Zoom link expired on 12/26/2021. If you have not done so already, register from the www.apollobaptist.org home page by clicking the image for the Prayer Meeting.

Register with your name and email address. The new registration will last through 4/17/2022.

Click on the emailed Zoom link at the time of the Prayer Meeting.

Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

- PRAYING for Apollo in the new year, for our leaders, our youth, and our reaching of the lost.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain, Steve & Joy V. in Turkey, David & Comfort J. in Nigeria, Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona, Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia, Sylvia M. at ASU West, Arizona, John T. in California, Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand, and Jules S. in Thailand
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an on-line setting, or a home school setting our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Jeanette C., Ruthie C., Floyd & Karen C. (daughter, niece, Mary E.), Cordero C. (grandfather), Marge D. (brother), Ida S. (two sisters-in-law), Frances P. (brother-in-law), Dorothy C. (sister-in-law), Gwen L. (brother), Rita H. (daughter-in-law), Kelly J., Rick S., Andrew R. and family (sister, aunt, & mother, Julie R.), Paul & Kathy W. (daughter's signif. other)
- Those struggling with on-going health and other issues:
Michelle L. (unexplained health issues), Gaylon K. (recovering from surgery), Mary R. (upcoming kidney transplant), Debbie B. (blood clots, hip pain), Leon V. (chemotherapy), Ann C.-W. (health issues), Ruthie C. (tumor/kidney stone), Margaret J's husband (non-COVID pneumonia), and Raul O. (recovering from triple bypass surgery)
- Those struggling with COVID
- Others that you are aware of