OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

a) Can you recall a time when you lost something valuable? Did you rejoice when you found it?

b) In what areas of your life are you prone to wander away from God? Is there any area of your life where you are actively running from God?

c) Mark talked about feeling our "lostness" through both the achieving of our dreams and the dashing of our dreams. Can you relate to either of these? How has chasing your personal dreams left you feeling lost and/or empty?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a) What do these two parables teach us about the nature of God? Consider both his searching for the lost and his rejoicing when they're found.? Do either of these surprise you? In what way?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

a) In light of Romans 3:10-12, how must we interpret verse 7? Do you see yourself as the lost "one" or the "righteous 99?"

b) Read John 10:11-18. How does this teaching of Christ compare with Luke 15:4-7? How do these two passages point ahead to the cross? Consider also Isaiah 53:6.

APPLICATION

a) Is there any person or group of people that you see as a spiritual "lost cause?" How might God be calling you to go after one of his lost sheep?

b) How can you live in celebration of your own salvation this week and beyond?

PRAYER

- Praise God for being a God who never gives up on us.
- Confess ways that you have wandered away from your Shepherd.
- Thank Jesus for laying down his life for his sheep.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to rejoice in your own salvation and the salvation of others.