



Friend of Sinners | Ronnie Johnson | 4.28.19

Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

Have you ever been told you look like someone famous? Who was it?

SHARE

What was the most impactful conversation you had this week? Who was it with and what was it about?

Our church exists to make heaven more crowded by welcoming home prodigals! But since it is so easy to forget the “why,” we want to constantly remind each other what we are striving for. So, this week we kicked off a new series called “Welcome Home” to remind us of why we do what we do.

Our hope is that Red Rocks be a place where everyone feels like they are a part of the family. No matter who you are, where you are from, where you’ve been, or what you’ve done, we want you to feel at home. No church does this perfectly, and we know we still have a long way to go, but we are committed to working toward this goal together. This week, Ronnie kicked off the series by talking about a story Jesus told a very diverse group of people! But before we read the story, let’s get things started by answering this question.

Why do you think the word “home” resonates with all of us at such a deep level? What

does that word mean to you?

G R O W

Read Luke 15:1-7

What are your initial reactions to this story? What do you think Jesus is trying to accomplish here?

Luke 15 is a beautiful picture of The Gospel. For starters, tax collectors and sinners seem to feel completely at ease around Jesus, even though He is a Jewish Rabbi. They all hang out with Him because they are eager to learn and grow and become more like Him.

Meanwhile, the Pharisees are standing at a distance, murmuring to themselves. The Pharisees mean well and are working hard to keep all the rules, but along the way, they lost sight of the goal. They didn't like that Jesus was associating with these people. As Ronnie said this week, the Pharisees were angry with Jesus because "they had missed his mission." If they had it their way, Jesus would stop being so inclusive and start rebuking people out. But the good news is, the Good News for everyone! Jesus didn't only come to call the healthy; he came to call the sick (Luke 5:32).

Jesus could certainly call out the Pharisees for missing the mission and He could also tell the tax collectors to stop being so immoral, but instead, He decides to tell some stories. All three stories lay out the heartbeat of Red Rocks Church beautifully. Ronnie focused on the first story about a shepherd who lost one of his sheep and left the other ninety-nine to find it. Upon seeing him, he carries him back to the flock and then throws a party!

This is a brilliant move, especially considering His present audience. Jesus is letting the whole world know that He is about people! He is the one who leaves the majority to find the lost. As followers of Jesus, the invitation is to do the same. It is to create a church that makes room for sinners, tax collectors, and Pharisees. Every person brings their questions, unique personalities, and gifts to the table! He is here for everyone! It doesn't matter if you are a lonely Tax Collector or a self-righteous Pharisee. The message of Jesus is for you!

Luke 15:7 is one of the best (and most convicting) verses in Scripture. What emotions

come to mind when you read Luke 15:7?

Who is “the one” in your life? How can you love them well this week?

M O V E

Read Acts 2:42-47

Acts 2 gives us a snapshot of the early church in its most beautiful form. You may have noticed that we model a lot of what we do in Life Group after this passage. Red Rocks is a large church; we do Life Groups because the early church was centered around tight-knit communities going through life together. Before we go any further, let's pause and take inventory of our group through the lens of this passage.

Have someone re-read the passage out loud. As they do identify one descriptive word that sticks out to you.

What word did you pick? Why do you think that word stuck out to you?

Is that a word you would use to describe your Life Group? Why or Why Not?

What is one place for improvement for your Life Group?

No group is perfect, but we are to be working together to create a group that feels like home! Obviously, things look different today, because the church has followed the Great Commission and grown to the ends of the earth. However, as we grow, it is essential that community remains a priority. That is why your Life Group is such a vital part of this church!

One of the best parts about calling Red Rocks home is that the homecoming is only the beginning. As Ronnie reminded us this week, “if you call this place home, if you allow the love of God in your life, it will transform you.” God welcomes us home with open arms, but then the real fun begins because God loves us too much to let us stay where we are.

What are some of the qualities that make a home feel like home?

What is one-way Life Group has felt like home for you this semester? Celebrate it with your group.

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for breakthrough for each other. Pick one person in your group and pray for the breakthrough they are asking God for!

T O G O

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

1 Peter 4:9

