



Parties for Prodigals | Shawn Johnson

5.26.19 | Weekly Study

START

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

What is your favorite thing about Memorial Day Weekend?

SHARE

Do you have any exciting summer plans? Tell your group about them.

What has been the highlight of Life Group for you this semester?

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. That is why we launched into this current 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, we continue in 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. The church is a body of believers, meaning it is a family of imperfect Christ-followers.

Is anyone in your group getting baptized next week? If so, have them share their story and spend some time praying for them?

If anyone has any questions about baptism, spend some time talking about it.

G R O W

Luke 15:1-10

What has been your most significant learning from Luke 15 throughout this series?

Which of the three stories do you relate to the most?

We are a family that exists to make heaven more crowded, which means we aren't consumers coming to church to see what we can get out of it, we show up every week because we are a part of the family and have a role to play in helping the church fulfill its mission. As Shawn reminded us this week, "the church is not here for us, we are the church and we're here for the world!" This is a significant shift for some of us, but just imagine what we could all do together to make an impact in the world around us if we just change how we view the church.

So how do we make the shift? How do we remind ourselves that we are the church? One of the biggest things we all need constant reminders of is that we are a church who throws parties for prodigals. Parties are at the heart of the Gospel story. We've been studying Luke 15, where Jesus tells three stories about lost things being found. Each story ends with a celebration. When something or someone comes home, the Kingdom of God celebrates.

All of us should show up to the church gathering ready to meet people, ask how they are doing, look for those who are alone, invite them to lunch, pray for them, or simply just give people hugs!

This week, Shawn gave us four easy steps to think about what it means to be a part of the family.

1. Show Up
2. Serve
3. Give
4. Invite

Which of those four are you doing a good job with? What are some areas of improvement?

What is one practical step you can take this week to improve that area?

M O V E

Read Luke 10:1-21

What seems to be Jesus's desire for his disciples?

What do you think He meant in verse 18? What does it tell us about Jesus?

In this passage, Jesus reminds us that "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few" (Luke 10:2). What does this mean for us as followers of Christ? Shawn talked about the one woman who sought out his mother. That, because one woman who made a decision to invite her to a prayer meeting, Shawn's mother made a decision to follow Christ and this changed the following generations. Because of one woman!

Can you imagine if each of us made the decision to follow what Jesus commanded and set out with His mission to reach those who don't know Him; to be the that one person in someone's life just as the woman in Shawn's mother's life? Generations will be forever changed, and Heaven becomes more crowded!

In the next coming weeks at all our campuses, we are about to experience baptism, where we will hear more stories like the one of Shawn's mom. We will see the transformation of lives as many people, young and old, getting baptized as a profession of faith! It's because God prompted someone to take a risk by the leading of the Holy Spirit to reach out and share the gospel!

We, as Christ followers, need to show up! Just as the disciples were sent out to spread the Gospel, we too are sent out, because we are disciples. If we believe that the Gospel is hope and true life, it will change our entire perspective and approach to life. We will see and listen differently. We will love wider and deeper because we have our focus on the mission that Christ has set before us.

Who was the person or group that took a risk and stepped into your life and pointed you

towards God?

Who is God leading you to invest in or to invite to a weekend service?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, it can be helpful to break up into two groups in order to share more easily about your prayer request.

T O G O

Rejoice that your names are written in heaven.

- Luke 10:20

