

## The World Turned Upside Down | Week 1 - The Lost are Found at Christmas

### Message Big Idea

What changed when Jesus came? The lost were found.

### Scripture

Luke 19:1-10, Luke 15:1-7

### Points to Keep In Mind

1. In looking at these passages, we see lost people matter to God. In these parables, Jesus portrays Israel as a people who had lost their way or sheep without a shepherd. The leaders of the day were not helping, so Jesus was sent to help Israel find their way back to God. So, if Israel could find their way back to God, God's redeemed people would be the way the rest of the world would find their way back to God as well.
2. The concepts of lost and found described in this week's message and outlined in this guide highlight a better way to think about Christian faith and practice. What so often happens in the Old and New Testament, those who are deemed as "insiders" to the faith are more lost than those who are considered to be "outsiders," despite outward appearances. This is seen clearly when Jesus tells the religious leaders in Matthew 21:31, "Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.'"
3. "In & Out Christianity" is what sociologists call a bounded set. It is clear about the requirements - all that you need to do is cross the line; just cross the boundary. If you do that, you are IN! It's clear that you are either you are IN, or you are OUT. If you buy into "In & Out Christianity," then, first of all, I need to make sure I'm IN. Then, I need to make sure everyone else crosses the boundary from the OUTSIDE to the INSIDE. Cause the mission becomes all about getting the people OUT there, IN here too! And once we are IN – then we are good! Any further progress at that point is merely optional.
4. Christianity is not a bounded set. The "In & Out" version of Christianity is not what Jesus taught or the good news he came to bring. Instead, Christianity is more like what sociologists call a "centered set." In a centered set, everything is defined by what is at the center. What matters most in a centered set is not merely whether someone is "IN or OUT" but whether they are moving toward or away from the center. The life Jesus offers us is an eternal kind of life with him in the center, where we are continually orienting and reorienting ourselves to move toward him. It's a journey of moving closer and closer to him so that we come to know him and are transformed to become more and more like him. This is apprenticeship with Jesus.
5. Challenge your group to think about the direction of their life. We all wander away and get lost. This is a season where Jesus can call us back to what's most important.

### Additional Questions

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey? Visit [communitychristian.info](http://communitychristian.info)
3. Have you considered getting baptized? Visit [communitychristian.info](http://communitychristian.info)
4. Whom have you been able to B.L.E.S.S.? Ask your small group leader about the B.L.E.S.S. Practices