

**Lost Cause | Week 3 - How we can change the world one meal at a time****Message Big Idea**

If we are going to revive evangelism, we need to live and tell new stories

**Scripture**

Luke 15 and Matthew 9:9-13

**Points to Keep In Mind**

1. You can find this entire series, Lost Cause, on [rightnowmedia.com](http://rightnowmedia.com), complete with compelling video from our very own Dave Ferguson, and additional study material for you to use in your group if you'd like. RightNow Media is an excellent resource for small groups and is free to all COMMUNITY attenders. Each of your group members can register at [communitychristian.org/rightnowmedia](http://communitychristian.org/rightnowmedia) to enjoy all of its benefits.
7. In each of the stories in Luke 15, Jesus reinforces the value of what is lost and how great the celebration is when what was lost is found. Like Jesus, we too have a mission. As a matter of fact, his mission is our mission - "to seek and to save the lost." If we hope to fulfill this mission, we have to go back to loving people the way Jesus loved people and one of the most obvious and frequent ways Jesus loved people was by sharing a meal.
8. Matthew would not only go on to become one of Jesus' apostles, but also one of the early leaders of the church. He went on as a missionary to Ethiopia, preaching the good news of Jesus there in the royal court. But even more incredibly – the account of the gospel we are reading today, is of course the gospel of... Matthew. One meal with Jesus became the turning point of his entire life. The mission of Jesus, the meals of Jesus, ultimately remind us of the mercy of Jesus – that Jesus did not come for those who are "healthy," but for the "sick." Jesus did not come for those who are "righteous," but "sinners." (Matthew 9:13) Meals such as this one with Matthew and his friends remind us exactly why Jesus came – for those who consider themselves lost causes.
9. Food has a powerful way of connecting us with others, creating opportunities to build relationships with those at the table with us. Some ideas to consider this week: What if your small group started having parties or dinners once a month, and you invited neighbors, coworkers and friends? What if you skipped the Bible study and decided to just hang out, eat and party? That could be someone's first taste of your small group or of your church, and of God!

**Additional Questions and Resources**

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?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? [communitychristian.org/baptism](http://communitychristian.org/baptism)
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? [communitychristian.org/daily](http://communitychristian.org/daily)
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: [communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/](http://communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/)
6. Find out more about having a YOU+ conversation by visiting: [youplus.info](http://youplus.info)