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BECAUSE PEOPLE MATTER  
REACH+EQUIP+GO

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## “LOST & FOUND”

For use the week of November 6, 2011

### Read to the group

“The survivors of Oceanic Flight 815 were 1,000 miles off course when they crashed on a lush, mysterious island. Each person possesses a shocking secret, but they've got nothing on the island itself, which harbors a monstrous security system, a series of underground bunkers and a group of violent survivalists hidden in the shadows.” And a multi-year TV series, “Lost” was launched, captivating millions of viewers.

It seems we're immediately engaged when we hear that someone is lost. Scrolling news updates, late-breaking reports, family interviews, Facebook posts and Twitter feeds capture our hearts and our imaginations. This study brings us face to face with the crisis of being lost.

### CONNECTING WITH EACH OTHER (10-20 minutes)

**Answer and discuss one of these questions:**

1. (For fans of Lost): What hope, if any, did you have that the crash survivors would ever be found?
2. Think of a time when you were lost. Describe your emotions, the impact it had on your immediate plans, your efforts to resolve the situation or what others tried to do on your behalf.

### STUDYING THE SCRIPTURE (20-30 minutes)

Luke chapter 15 has been called the “Lost Chapter”. Three stories rivet our attention to the dilemma of being lost and the incredible breakthrough of being found. This study will focus on the first story of lost and found: the parable of the lost sheep.

*<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' <sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.” (Luke 15:1-7 NIV)*

- Compare and contrast the attitudes of these two groups of people: tax collectors/sinners and Pharisees/teachers of the law. (15:1-2)
- Why do you think Jesus used a parable (a story)? (15:3)
- What is a shepherd supposed to do when a sheep is lost? (15:4)
- What happened after the shepherd found the lost sheep? (15:5-6)
- Jesus suddenly shifted from a parable (story) to real life. Where does He shift the attention to? What parallels do you see?
- Jesus establishes two categories of people (15:7). Who are they and what distinguishes them from each other?
- What things or events make you feel like rejoicing? (15:6) When was the last time a person made you rejoice?
- One of our Crossroads axioms is “Found people find people.” Complete one or more of the following lists, adding names of people who you normally and naturally interact with:

Family:

Shopping:

Dining:

Work:

Recreation:

Neighborhood:

Club/Civic Organization:

Circle the names of those people who do not follow Christ. Talk about ways that you could begin or continue conversations with these people about their life issues and God’s desire to bring them into His family. Pray as a group for the circled names and the “found” people who circled those names.