

Greater Things

Week 1: Greater Gatherings

Weekly Summary: In the past decade, 922 has exploded in Sunday attendance. God has blessed us with great things—2 campuses, 6 services, and a humbling number of souls who regularly gather around the Word of Jesus. But God still desires greater things. There are still so many from our church family who rarely gather (mid-40% of our membership=weekly attendance; that number includes guests!). There are still so many temptations that keep us from church and so many distractions that keep us from worshiping once we get there. This message reminds us why we gather every week in Jesus' name.

◆ Greater Gathering

Greater Groups

Greater Giving

Greater Growth

Greater GO

◆ See the Percentages: 1-100 1-10 1-2 or 2-2

◆ Background: Luke Chapters 15-16 - Search. Prepare. See Heaven.

◆ Luke 15:1-2 - Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

◆ Take Away 1: Do you care for those who have strayed?

- ◆ Luke 15:3-4 - Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 “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?”

- ◆ Take Away 2: God’s love for you **never stops!**

- ◆ Luke 15:5 - And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home.

- ◆ Take Away 3: **Who** is the straying sheep you know?

- ◆ Luke 15:7 - 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.

- ◆ Take Away 4: **Rejoice** with God and the angels.

Points to Ponder

1. God has accomplished much through our two campuses. List some of the blessings that have touched your life. We’ll touch on the five Gs in our series. Is there a particular one you ask God’s blessing upon for you personally?
2. Describe the two groups of people who were following Jesus. Who are the stereotyped “sinners” in our world today? Why so comforting that God is concerned about the “one?”
3. Who is the “lost sheep” in your life? Consider how you can partner with The One Team to encourage that person. Which blessing of Gathering do you enjoy the most? Baptism, Lord’s Supper, Giving offerings, Hearing God’ Word, Singing praises to God, Gathering with fellow brothers and sisters?

Homework For Next Week: Acts 8:26-40