

# How to Get Fallen Away Members to Come Back (and Visitors)



**LUKE 15**

# 2/3 of your visitors will not return!

- ▶ Even if you're friendly, it is not enough!
- ▶ Fallen away members?
- ▶ How do you get them back?



## Take Ownership: Luke 15:4-6

**4 “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’**

He calls them “My Sheep”!



He considered them ***HIS***.

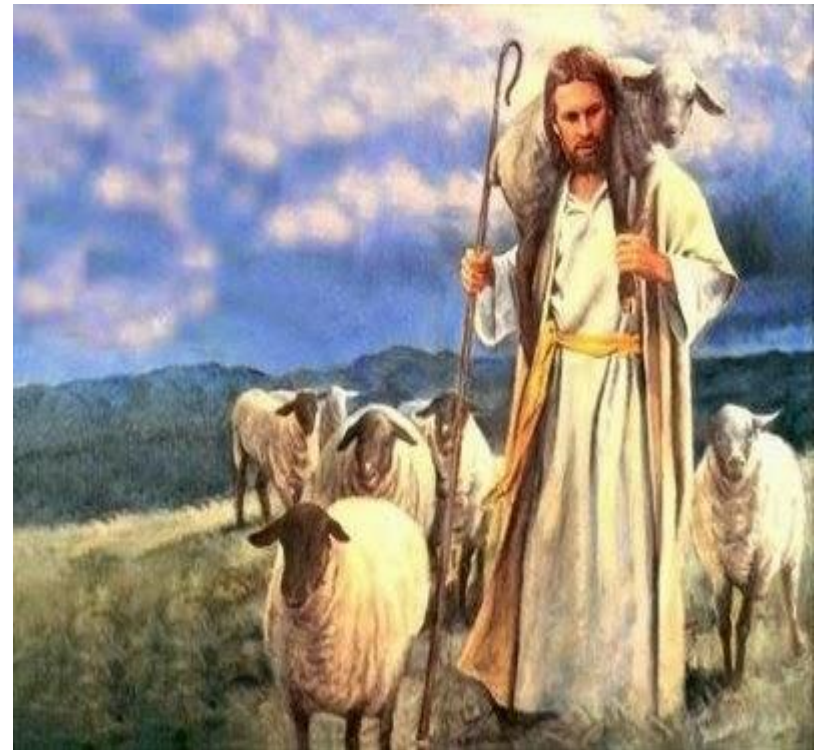
Sheep usually follow.

Some wander off.

Some get in trouble.

# Important things to note.....

- ▶ He counted his sheep.
- ▶ He knew them well.
- ▶ Carried the lost sheep on his shoulders.
- ▶ Rejoiced with his friends.



# How do these apply to the church?

- ▶ **Counted the sheep?**
- ▶ **Knew the sheep?**
- ▶ **Carried it back?**
- ▶ **Rejoiced?**



# Understand Stewardship



**The Parable of the Lost Coin:**

**Refers to a piece of jewelry**

**Equivalent to wedding ring**

## Luke 15:8-10

**8 “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ 10 Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”**



# Important things to note.....

- ▶ **Knew one was missing.**
- ▶ **Took actions (efforts) to help the search.**
- ▶ **Rejoiced with her friends.**



# How do these apply to the church?

- ▶ **Knew one was missing?**
- ▶ **Took multiple actions (effort) to help the search?**
- ▶ **Rejoiced?**



# If someone falls away or doesn't return what do you do?

- ▶ Ask the preacher or an elder?
- ▶ Send them a card?
- ▶ Visit them once?
- ▶ Speculate as to why they left?
- ▶ Nothing?



# Restore Fellowship- Luke:15:11-32



**(The parable of the prodigal son)**

# What can we learn?

- ▶ How is this perhaps like a fallen away member?
- ▶ What about the visitor?
- ▶ What has to happen before a visitor or fallen away member comes back?
- ▶ What must we do to keep them?
- ▶ Compare the elder brother to members in your congregation.



## Compare to James 5:19-20

**19 Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, 20 let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.**



# Significance of three parables.....

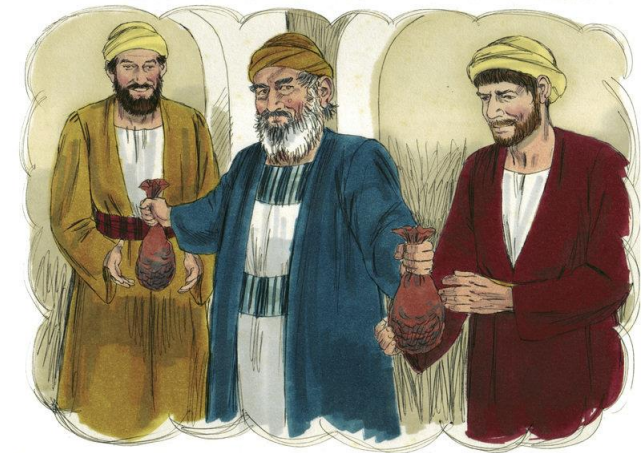
**One out of 100**



**One out of 10**



**One out of 2**



# What are these souls worth?

**The price of a meal?**

**The time of a visit?**

**A plate of homemade cookies?**

**An apology from you?**

**Staying around after services?**

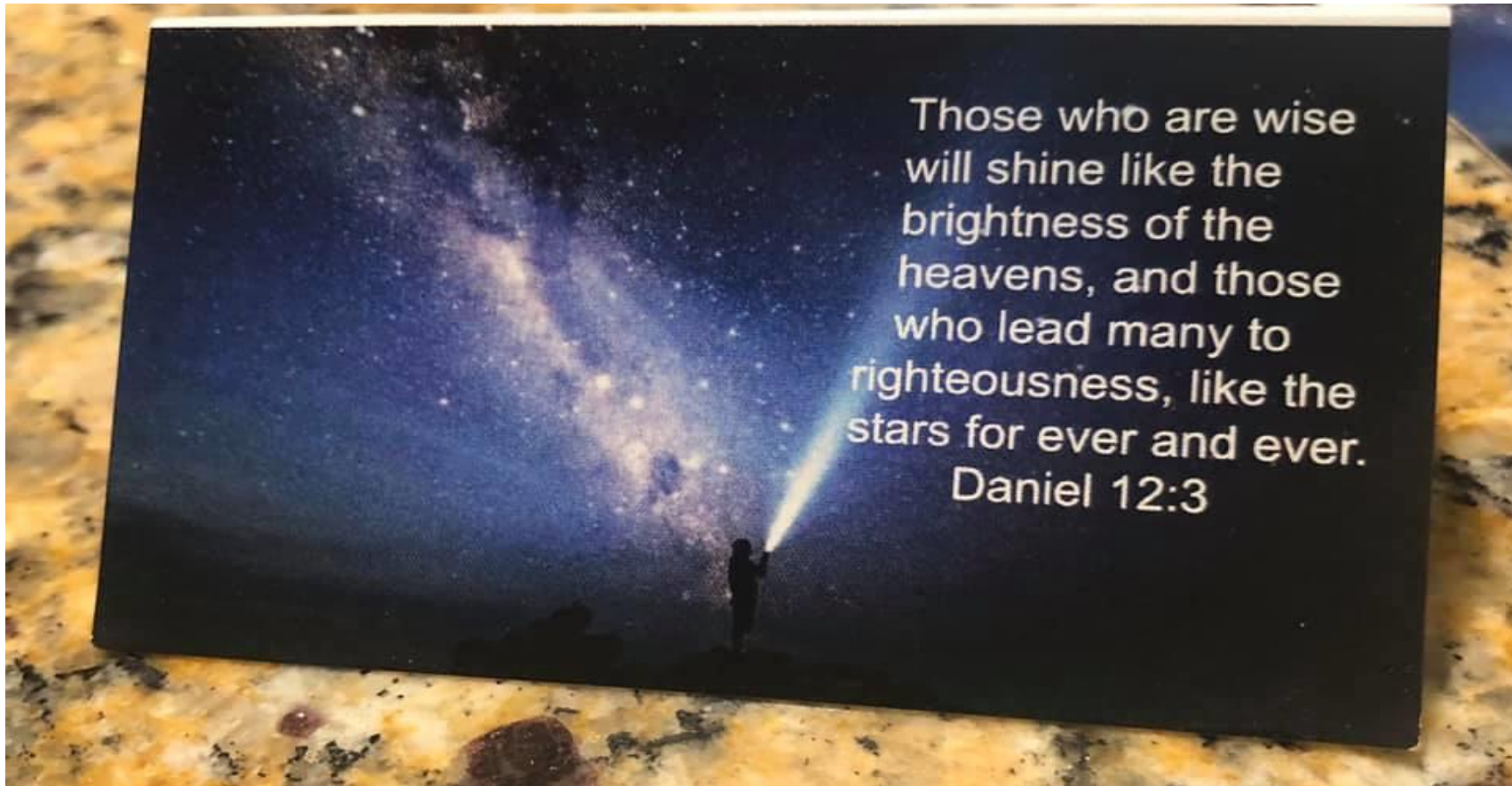
**Making connections with them?**







# Stars Card

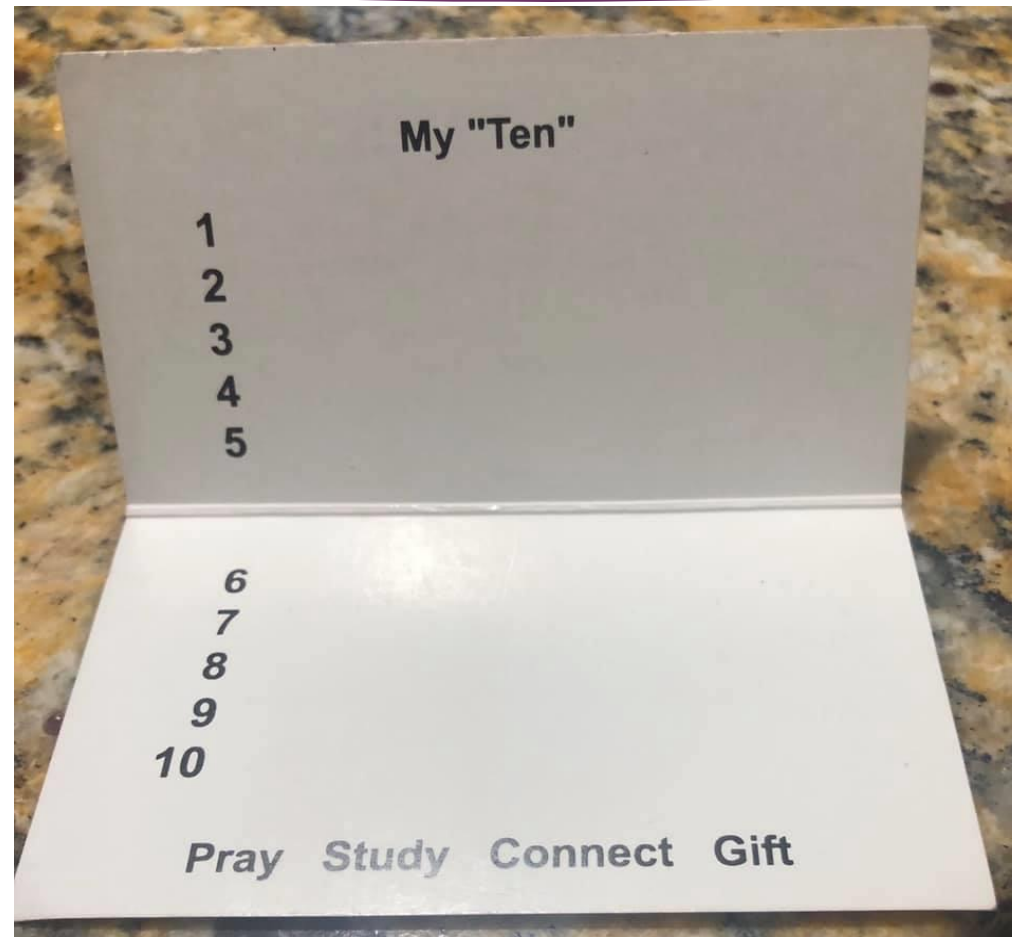


# Stars Card

**Daniel 12:3 (NIV)**

**Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.**

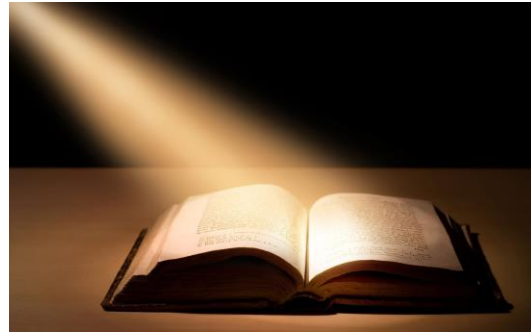
# My "Ten"



# Four Steps That Help Us Find That Which Is Lost



**Pray**



**Study**



**Connect**



**Gift**

# HOPES

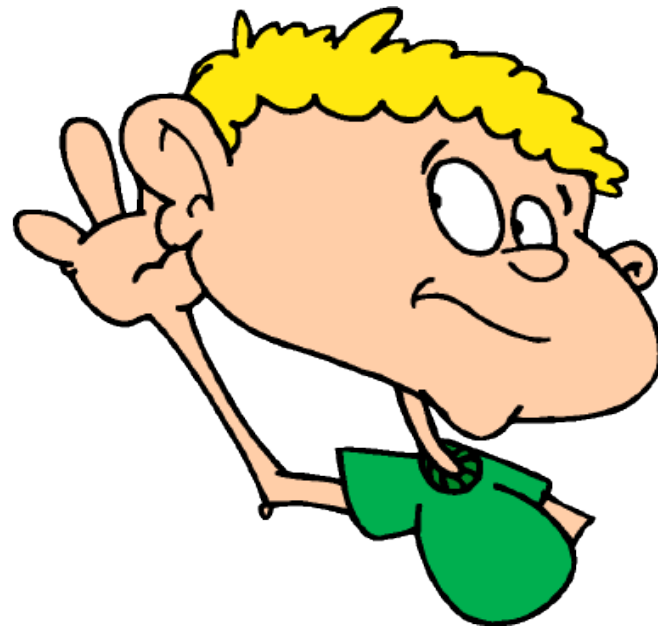
**H**ome

**O**ccupation

**P**reference

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**S**tory



**May God Bless You and Guide You...**

**By this all people will know  
you are my disciples, if you  
have love for one another.**

*John 13:35 (ESV)*

