



# LOST and FOUND

A Leader's Guide for  
PURSUED by the SHEPHERD

by KARON PHILLIPS GOODMAN

## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing *Pursued by the Shepherd* for your group to read and study. This guide divides the book into a six week study, with points to help you along the way.

*Pursued by the Shepherd* and this study serve two main purposes: (1) to help guide the reader who is lost and afraid back to her Shepherd so that she can rest in the joy of being redeemed by his love and grace, and (2) to inspire each “found sheep” to become a partner with the Shepherd and lead and guide others to a deeper relationship with him as well. The goal is comfort in our own journey, and courage to help others with theirs.

## MEETING WITH YOUR GROUP

The six week plan makes it easy for your group to complete the book in a brief time. Short chapters, with questions at the end of each, will help readers stay focused and encourage them to share their own stories of being lost and found.

I'd be honored to meet with you and your group by phone at the beginning or end of your study. Please contact me at [karon@karongoodman.com](mailto:karon@karongoodman.com) and we'll set up a time. You can also get more information and follow my Every Woman's Journey blog at <http://karongoodman.com/pbts.html>.

## HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR YOUR MEETINGS:

- As you welcome your group to the study, stress the importance of confidentiality and respect for everyone. Make your meeting place comfortable and inviting.
- You may want to begin with prayer. Here's a suggested prayer; perhaps you'll want to add something that reflects your own unique group:

Father, thank you for bringing our group together for this study. Thank you for being our Shepherd who always pursues us, for finding us and redeeming us so that we can grow and become everything you already see. Please guide us as we read and study and help us hear your voice above all others. Please guide us to be a blessing to your lost sheep everywhere, and thank you for always bringing us home to you. Amen.
- Remember to offer the questions “for reflection” at the end of each chapter and add questions or examples of your own. You may want to remind members each week to consider those questions while they are reading, so they are prepared to bring any insights or concerns to the group.
- Always thank the members for attending the study and encourage them to bring a friend. Remember them in prayer throughout the week.

## WEEK 1

READING: pages 11-36

INTRODUCTION

PART 1: *Misguided*

INTRODUCTION TO PART 2: *Lost*

The brief introduction on pages 11–12 begins with the story Jesus told in Luke 15:4–6, the story that's the basis for *Pursued by the Shepherd*. You may want to read that passage or tell the story in your own words. The stories in the *Misguided* chapters are to help us see we're not so different from anyone else—we can all be misguided, and we can learn from each misplaced step.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Why do you think Jesus told this story, and why did he focus on the one lost sheep?  
We don't know what led the sheep astray, but we can relate.

What has misguided you in your life? Can you look back and see how it happened?  
Discuss how it feels to be a “lost sheep.”

## WEEK 2

READING: pages 37-82

PART 2: *Lost*

PART 3: *Alone*

As you move into Part 2: *Lost*, remind your members that in Jesus's story, the focus is on the 100th sheep, the lost one. Jesus must have great concern for his own who are lost, and each of us goes through lost times in our lives. The point here is not to

meet each other with condemnation but with compassion, to stretch out a hand or to accept one, to deepen our trust in our Shepherd when we need it most.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Lost and alone, we feel heavens away from God's grace.

What do you think God is doing when we're lost?

How does being lost and alone in the darkness impact your life and your relationship with God and with others?

What makes you feel separated from God?

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## WEEK 3

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READING: pages 83-110

PART 4: *Found*

Lost no more! Spend some time talking about Jesus's story, about when the shepherd found his lost sheep and how joyful he was. Tell a story from your life or about someone you know that demonstrates this example of God's grace.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

How does Jesus feel about our reunion with him?

What does being found in our less-than-perfect condition tell us about Jesus's love and his pursuit of us?

Have someone read aloud the short section *Finding Me*, pages 83-84.

How does everyone relate to that feeling and experience?

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## WEEK 4

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READING: pages 111-132

PART 5: *Redeemed*

Our Shepherd redeems us—buys us back for himself—and cradled in his love, we begin a process of learning and relearning. This section reminds us how Jesus's rescue of us is the beginning of a transformation, when he prepares us to become all he's planned.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

When God is working his redemption in us, we can feel it.

Describe an especially significant experience of redemption and how you felt—perhaps truly knowing God's love, forgiveness, or compassion for the first time.

Choose one of the chapters of this section and share how God has made that point especially clear in your life.

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## WEEK 5

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READING: pages 133-162

PART 6: *Growing*

Having been found and redeemed, we're ready for the work to begin. The Growing section is based on what we call "The Lord's Prayer," Matthew 6:9-13. You'll find it printed in full on page 138, and chapters 37-41 each address a specific part of the prayer. Perhaps your members will want to pray the prayer at a specific time each day during this week, and see how God uses that time to speak or reveal something new to them.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

The Shepherd loves to grow his beloved sheep.

What new and exciting discoveries has God made for you during a growing process that follows being found?

What about our Shepherd's character became more real and relevant to you during this time?

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## WEEK 6

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READING: pages 163-188

PART 7: *Becoming*

The best that's yet to be, which God has promised us, is about to show itself for all to see. Found sheep have a mission! Redeemed by his grace and grown in his love, we're ready to become a helping hand and a guiding light for others. Strong and secure, we're willing to become all that he says is possible.

### GROUP QUESTIONS

Have someone read aloud the first full paragraph on page 164, beginning "Because of his grace . . ."

What do you hope to become?

What kind of "found sheep" do you want to be?

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## CLOSING



Thank everyone for their participation and encourage them to be on the lookout for lost sheep they can help. You may have a member who would feel comfortable leading a study of her own. If so, please offer your support. Thank you for your work and dedication! Please keep in touch with me at [karon@karongoodman.com](mailto:karon@karongoodman.com), and share any comments you or your friends have about *Pursued by the Shepherd* or this study.