



... FOR THE ONE

SESSION 1:

ASK Jesus Who He Is Looking For



INTRODUCTION

For nearly 20 years, “One life at a time” has been part of County Line Church’s vision. Those words have become synonymous with what we believe God has called us to live out: **“Multiplying the love and joy of Jesus with a hurting world...one life at a time.”** A couple of years ago, someone suggested that Pastor Stu read *Looking for the One* by David McIver. As he read it, Pastor Stu saw a powerful picture of what it could look like for us to live out the County Line Church vision in everyday life. We were blessed to have David McIver join us at County Line in October 2025, and *Looking for the One* has become a valuable resource as we learn what it means to regularly look for the one God brings across our path. (If you haven’t purchased *Looking for the One*, you can do so at our Restoration Cafe or ask your Campus Pastor.)

Our October series, **For the One**, is designed to inspire us to become more intentional and effective at influencing those who are far from God by looking for the one. Each week, Pastor Stu will focus on a biblical principle that will strengthen us to live out our calling to reach people who need the love and joy of Jesus.

In *Looking for the One*, David tells the story of a friend named Tim who asked the Holy Spirit to show him how he could live this out in a practical way. The plan was simple: Look for the one God brings across your path each day.

Tim began to experience that “Looking for the One” may mean praying with someone, helping with a financial need, slowing down and listening to the Holy Spirit, serving in some way, or sharing the gospel. Ultimately, it is showing someone that God sees them, knows them, and loves them. It doesn’t always have to be complicated. It starts with being willing to **notice the one**.

■ Why Is This So Hard?

If we are honest, it can be easy to forget to look for the one. Our days are full. Work. Family. School activities. Errands. Appointments. Social media. Television. Groceries. To-do lists. We can move through an entire day interacting with dozens of people without ever stopping to ask: **“Jesus, is there someone You want me to notice today?”**

GROUP DISCUSSION

- **CONFIDENTIALITY:** What's said in the group stays in the group.
- **NO CROSS-TALK:** Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.
- **NO FIXING:** We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.
- **SHARING:** Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.

Q: When you hear the phrases “one life at a time” or “looking for the one,” what comes to mind?

Q: What makes it difficult for us to see the “one” that God brings to us?

For our first session, we are going to continue the conversation Pastor Stu started in his sermon. Our first step in reaching one life at a time is simple: **Ask Jesus who He is looking for.** Before we decide who we are going to reach, we ask Jesus who **He** is already pursuing.

Q: What do you think it means to “Ask Jesus who He is looking for”?

Q: What might change about the way we go through our day if we began each morning with that question?

Jesus' Heart for the One

Luke 15 gives us a beautiful picture of Jesus' heart for the one. The chapter begins by saying: *“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’”*



Stop and imagine this scene. Jesus is surrounded by people others considered outsiders, sinners, and people who were far from God. And instead of pushing them away, **Jesus welcomed them.**

Q: What do you learn about Jesus from this picture in Luke 15?

Q: What caused people who were far from God to want to be near Jesus?

Jesus Goes After the One. Jesus continues:

“Then Jesus told them this parable: ‘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? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ 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.”

Q: In your own words, what is Jesus communicating through this story?

Q: What does this story reveal about how Jesus sees people who are far from God?

Q: Why do you think Jesus uses the picture of leaving the 99 to go after the one?

Jesus is willing to go after the one. The question for us is: **Are we willing to go too?**

Following Jesus means learning to see people the way He sees them. It means becoming aware of the people He places in our path. It means slowing down long enough to notice. And sometimes it means allowing our plans to be interrupted because Jesus has something—or someone—different in mind. We don’t have to know exactly what we’re going to say or do. We simply begin by asking: **“Jesus, show me the ONE today?”**



VIDEO: LOOKING FOR THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO BE ENCOURAGED

(Play video)

Q: What stood out to you about David's story?

David mentions "my sheep hear my voice" referencing John 10:27 when Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." What did David say about how we can become more familiar with Jesus' voice in our lives as we look for the one?

LOOKING FOR THE ONE MOMENT

Let's read a Looking for the One story that happened to a County Liner.

A family member was out of town and needed someone to repair a piece of electronics in their home. I had recently read the book Looking for the One, and as I drove to the house, I wondered if this might be an opportunity to talk with the repair technician about God.

When the technician arrived, however, he seemed completely uninterested in conversation. I tried several times to ask simple, conversation-starting questions, but I struck out over and over. I understood that he had a job to do and probably just wanted to get in, complete the repair, and get on his way. Eventually, I walked out of the room and sat down, thinking, "This is not going at all like described in the book."

A short time later, the technician came into the room where I was sitting. He explained that he had encountered an issue he had never seen before. He had called the manufacturer's technical support line and was told that it could take up to 30 minutes for the electronic component to update and for the battery to recharge enough to complete the setup process.

I was slightly irritated. I thought I might be there for another hour before I could leave. Then I had a thought: What if God has orchestrated this?

That thought immediately changed my attitude. Instead of being frustrated about the delay, I began to wonder what God might want to do with the extra time. I quietly asked God to facilitate a conversation and give me an opportunity to connect with this man.

I walked back into the room where the technician was waiting for the component to recharge. Once again, I tried asking a few simple questions. Once again, I struck out. Finally, I stepped back, leaned against the countertop, and prayed, "God, please open a window for conversation."



Then, almost like a light switch being flipped, something changed. The technician suddenly became engaged in conversation. After a few minutes of small talk, he made a comment that gave me an opening to mention prayer. I asked him if he and his family had a home church.

He told me that he had grown up going to church but had not attended for many years. He now had a young family and had been thinking that it might be good for them to start going to church again. He just wasn't sure how to get started.

What followed was a short but meaningful conversation about God. I shared some of the positive ways church and faith had impacted my family and offered a few suggestions for finding a church. I could tell that he appreciated the conversation.

Eventually, I asked if we could pray together. We prayed, and as soon as the prayer ended, he checked the electronic device. To our surprise, the update had completed, and the battery had recharged much faster than expected. He was able to finish the setup and complete the repair.

I am convinced that God arranged that moment. The experience taught me something I don't want to forget: when God prompts me to reach out to someone, I need to keep trying—even when the first few attempts feel like complete failures. I may not understand why God has placed me in a particular situation or why circumstances seem to be taking longer than expected. But sometimes, what looks like an inconvenience is actually an opportunity God has created. That Looking for the One moment is one I will always remember.

REFLECTION

Q: What stood out to you about this County Liner's Looking for the One story?

NEXT STEPS

Over the next week, begin each day with a short prayer: **"Lord, show me the ONE?"**

Then pay attention. Ask Jesus to help you notice the person He brings across your path. It may be someone you already know. It may be a stranger. It may be someone who needs encouragement, prayer, help, a listening ear, or an invitation to take a step toward Jesus. You don't have to force an opportunity.

**Just look for the one. One person. One conversation.
One life at a time.**