

For the Family – The Lost Sheep

Read Together Luke 15:1-7

Talk together about the two groups in verses 1-2: One group was “drawing near to hear” Jesus. The other group “grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

This group thought Jesus was wrong because he spent time with sinners, so he told a story to show them it was their grumbling about him that was wrong.

Retell the Story of *The Lost Sheep*. The shepherd realizes that one of his sheep is lost. He leaves the 99 sheep safely behind and searches until he finds the lost sheep. When he finds it, he gently places it on his shoulders and returns home.

The shepherd is so happy that he found his lost sheep that he throws the village a party. He wants people to celebrate with him.

When he finished the story, Jesus said: “Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.”

Explain that this is a picture of what happens when someone receives Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Heaven throws a party!

Read Luke 19:10 – For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.

Explain that Jesus came to search for lost people, those who don't yet know him. He invites us to be a part of that.

Talk together about what you can do as a family to encourage people to be a part of God's kingdom. Think of people you could invite to Wednesday night Youth or Children's program. Think of someone you could invite to Easter services.

Pray together that you will have an opportunity to invite someone to come to church with you. Pray that you will be part of the group that draws near to hear God's Word, and not belong to the group that grumbles.



The Journey of Discipleship
Luke 9-19

Lost and Found

Luke 15:1-32

Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-14:35

- Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and fulfill his mission.
- Jesus sends out messengers. Some are rejected; others tell stories of their power over demons.
- Jesus teaches the importance of loving God and loving others.
- Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray.
- Jesus drives out a demon from a mute man; then challenges those who doubt his power or who want to see more signs.
- Jesus confronts some Pharisees and lawyers, accusing them of hypocrisy and burdening people with legalism.
- Jesus warns his disciples against hypocrisy. He exhorts them to acknowledge him before others, and promises the Holy Spirit will help them when they face persecution.
- Jesus warns his disciples against greed or worry.
- Jesus warns his disciples to be always watchful and prepared for his return, even if it seems delayed.
- Jesus warns the crowd to not judge others who experience tragedy. He tells them rather to repent.
- Jesus frees a woman from a disabling spirit, and confronts those offended because he did it on the Sabbath.
- Jesus warns people to strive to enter the kingdom of God.
- Jesus warns people to be humble, and receive his invitation.
- Jesus warns people to relinquish any entanglements with people or possessions which will affect their discipleship.

Luke 15:1-32 – Lost and Found

Open – Did you ever run away from home? Where did you go? How long were you gone? What brought you back?

The Setting 1-3

What did the Pharisees and the scribes say about Jesus?

Read Luke 5:27-32

What does Jesus say in response to the Pharisees' and scribes' grumbling about him eating with tax collectors and sinners?

Read Luke 19:1-10

What does Jesus say in response to their grumbling about him eating at the house of a tax collector?

The Lost Sheep 4-7

How did the sheep get lost?
What is involved in the shepherd's search? 4-5
What does he do when he finds the sheep? 6
What does Jesus say in conclusion? 7

Do you think Jesus was being literal when he said, "righteous persons who need no repentance."?

The Lost Coin 8-10

How did the coin get lost?
What is involved in the woman's search? 8
What does she do when she finds the coin? 9
What does Jesus say in conclusion? 10

The Younger Son 11-24

How did the son become lost? 12-19
What is involved in the father's search? 20
What does the father do when he finds his son? 21-23
What does the father say in conclusion? 24

Read Ephesians 2:10

What do verses 1-3 tell us about how we were once "dead"?
What do verses 4-10 tell us about how we have been "made alive"?

The Older Son 25-32

In the three previous stories, there is a pattern: Something is lost. Someone searches. The lost is found. There is a celebration.

In verses 25-32:

Is something lost?
How did he become lost?
Does someone search?
What is involved in the search?
Is the lost one found?
Is there a celebration?

Why do you think Jesus left the parable open-ended?

Reflect

What do we learn about God?
What do we learn about our value to God?
What do we learn about sin, repentance, and God's love?

Why did Jesus "receive sinners and eat with them"?
How do these stories respond to the Pharisees' grumbling?

How can you "receive sinners and eat with them"?

Next Steps

- For the sake of Christ, I will give up something I love for something I love more:
 - my normal seat
 - my parking place
 - my comfort level
 - my preferences
- I will be intentional about reaching others for Christ:
 - I will invite others to services
 - I will develop an impact list
 - I will practice strategic consumerism
- I will celebrate with all of heaven as God's kingdom grows.

Memory Verse – Luke 15:7

Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-one righteous persons who need no repentance.