

5_19_13 Luke 15 Parables of the Lost
Ideas for SS classes, small groups, etc.

Pray together, **R**elate to each other, **E**at together, **S**tudy together, **S**erve together

PRESS on toward the goal of growing in Jesus!

General outside activity – Take a walk and specifically look for money/coins. Pick up litter/garbage too!

Luke Team Memory Verse – **1 John 3:16-18** - What better way to demonstrate teamwork and the results it can bring than to do our memory verse for the Luke series as a team? The concept is that each week a leader cuts apart each line of the memory verse and hands each section to a member of their group/class. Each person is to memorize their section of the verse and know where it goes. If you rotate parts, by family or person, then you might all learn the whole verse before the sessions are over.

Eat together – Rotate through families/people to bring some form of food to share. If you need adult time, ask the kids to prepare and serve the food. If you need kids' time, ask some of the adults to prepare and serve the food. Food could also be prepared and served by the family/people that brought the food. It would be great to have **PARTY FOOD** both this week and next.

Pray together – **PRAISE** – thank God for who He is; **REPENT** – Ask God to forgive and help us; **ASK** – Ask God for things that others need; Ask God for things that you need; **YIELD** – Tell God that you trust HIM with whatever He provides and with whatever He has planned. Thank Him that you can trust His love.

Study together

Luke 15:1-10– serving the disconnected/lost

Vs. 1-7 – the lost sheep

Vs 1-2

Family Activities: On one side of your paper, draw a picture of someplace where do you not like to go. On the other side of your paper draw a picture of someplace that you do like to go. Tell why you do/don't want to go to each of these places.

Sometimes people who were around Jesus were uncomfortable. They were uncomfortable because they didn't like some of the other people who were around Jesus. Jesus told some stories to help all of us understand that Jesus loves everyone.

Adult Questions:

Have you ever felt uncomfortable with the people around you? What were the circumstances? (Did you want to be there? Did they want to be there? Why were you uncomfortable?)

Why were the Pharisees muttering about the people around Jesus?

What does your discomfort say about you?

Vs 3-7

Family Activities: Play Baa, Baa, sheep - Pick a shepherd. Everyone else is a sheep. The shepherd sits down in the middle of all the standing sheep and covers his eyes. As all the sheep BAA, one sheep leaves to hide in the area. The sheep that is hiding continues to BAA, along with the rest of the sheep. The shepherd stands up and goes tries to find the sheep that is hiding as all the sheep continue to BAA. When the hiding sheep is found, it becomes the next shepherd. Play this game several times. The game we played is not the way the story that Jesus told would have happened. The sheep would have been quiet because they feel safe together. They would have stayed near the shepherd and quietly gone to sleep, cuddled up next to each other. The shepherd would have counted the sheep to be sure that they were all there. When he discovered that one was missing, he would have gone searching. The lost sheep would have BAAAAed, because he was alone and scared. That would have made it easier for the shepherd to find him. If you have time, play the game again, but with all the sheep being quiet except the lost sheep.

Jesus said He is the “Good Shepherd”. What does this story tell you about Jesus? What would we do if we want to be like Jesus?

Brainstorm to put names to the group (the sheep in the middle) and the loner or lost sheep. What would Jesus do with the loner? IE –

| | |
|----------|--------------------------------|
| Group | loner |
| Well fed | hungry |
| Housed | homeless |
| Church | someone who doesn't know Jesus |
| Friends | lonely |

Adult Questions:

Why would a shepherd leave a group of sheep alone in the open country?

Why would a shepherd not want to leave a single sheep alone in the open country?

How big does a flock need to be before one sheep is no longer valuable?

How do you show that you value someone?

How do you share that value with friends? (celebration)

How does God show that He values you? How do you share that with friends?

Vs 8-10 – the lost coin

Family Activities:

Celebrate if you found any money/coins! Jesus says that He looks for people the way we looked for coins. What kinds of people would Jesus be looking for? What happens when Jesus finds someone? He celebrates with the angels! Have each family make up a celebration dance/cheer and then do it for everyone else.

Ask each family to put some pre-packed granola bars or bottled water in their car and encourage them to give one out to each homeless person that they meet this week.

Adult Questions:

(Note: Ron doesn't connect with this direction. Feel free to use another.)

Is it easier to create new wealth or to conserve what you have? Does either path say something about what you value?

What made this woman diligently pursue the coin she had lost? Why didn't she just shrug her shoulders and say “It'll turn up someday...”

Do you pick up pennies? Do you celebrate picking up pennies? Does God?