

## **Luke 15 Parables of the Lost**

### **Vs. 1-7 – the lost sheep**

Vs 1-2

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

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?

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

### **Vs 8-10 – the lost coin**

(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?

### **Vs 11-31 – the lost son**

Vs 11-12

In their culture, should the younger son have had any inheritance?

How could this division have affected the family dynamics?

Vs 13-16

Have you ever bought/lived something on impulse that you later regretted? What were the consequences of your purchase?

What does impulse buying/living say about us?

This is a good place to advertise the Financial Peace class!

Vs 17-19

What does it take to get you to make a plan? Do you tend to avoid planning and budgets until you HAVE to pay attention? How does God work in your life to help you make and stick to a plan?

Vs 20-24

How/when have you felt welcomed?

How does God welcome you?

How do you welcome others?

Vs 25-27

How has the older brother occupied his time while his brother has been away? What could he have done better?

Vs 28-30

How is the older brother right? How is he wrong?

Vs 30-32

Have you ever felt or experienced what this father experienced?

Who do you identify with in this story? Why?

Describe God's love.

**5\_19\_13 Luke 15 Parables of the Lost**  
**Ideas for SS classes, small groups, etc.**

**P**ray 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?

**5\_26\_13 Luke 15 Parables of the Lost**  
**Ideas for SS classes, small groups, etc.**

**P**ray 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** – Have each family draw one paper from each of the following categories:

<b>Size</b>	<b>hair color</b>	<b>eye color</b>	<b>gender</b>	<b>wearing this color</b>
Tall	blonde	blue	male	red
Short	red	brown	female	blue
Big	brown	blue	male	green
Small	black	brown	female	white
Tall	bald	blue	male	yellow
Short	white	brown	female	black

Add or duplicate enough specific attributes so that each family can draw one paper from each category.

Give each family an unopened candy bar.

Go to a park or shopping mall, etc., and have each family find someone that fits their description and give them the candy bar. How hard did you have to look? Was your person surprised that you were looking for them and had found them? Were you surprised that you found them? How did it feel to give your candy bar away?

**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** this week.

**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 15:11-31– serving with God's heart**

**Vs 11-31 – the lost son**

Vs 11-12

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Draw a picture of something you really, really wanted that you actually got. The younger brother in this story really, really wanted to be able to leave home and live his own life, so he asked his father for his part of the family money. His father gave it to him! What do you think he felt like when he had the money in his hands to do what he really, really wanted to do?

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

In their culture, should the younger son have had any inheritance?

How could this division have affected the family dynamics?

Vs 13-16

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Tell us about the thing that you drew that you really, really wanted. Do you still have it? Do you still use it? How long did it make you happy? The young brother in this story was REALLY happy...until he spent all his money. He had to get a job, and it was an awful job. He was very hungry and very tired and very sad. He realized that he had made a lot of bad decisions.

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

Have you ever bought/lived something on impulse that you later regretted? What were the consequences of your purchase?

What does impulse buying/living say about us?

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Vs 17-19

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Who do you go to when you have a problem? (Hopefully mom and dad are included in the list!) What do you do if your problem is WITH your mom/dad? What if you are mad at them or you've done something to hurt them or their stuff or you've done something really stupid? Would you still go to them? Why? Why not? When this young man thought about what he could do he remembered his dad and how good his dad was to the people that worked for him. He decided to go back home and ask his dad to hire him as one of his workers.

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

What does it take to get you to make a plan? Do you tend to avoid planning, setting goals and making budgets until you HAVE to pay attention? How does God work in your life to help you make and stick to a plan?

Vs 20-24

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Do you like family reunions? Why, why not? What would it feel like to go somewhere and meet someone who was looking for you to bless you? (Use the candy bar activity as an illustration.)

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

How/when have you felt welcomed?

How does God welcome you?

How do you welcome others?

Vs 25-27

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Draw a picture (or pantomime) of a family chore. After discovering and talking about them, find out how they would feel if they were the only ones doing the chores while everyone else just played. Why was the older brother surprised at the sound of the party?

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

How has the older brother occupied his time while his brother has been away? What could he have done better?

Vs 28-30

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Have a contest to see who can say "But it's not fair!" the best. When was the last time you said that? That's what the older brother said.

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

How is the older brother right? How is he wrong?

Vs 30-32

**FAMILY ACTIVITIES:** Act out the story. Who do you want to be? Why?

Is there someone in your life who you want to be like the father in this story?...always looking, always welcoming, always forgiving? Jesus told this story to help us understand that God is like that. As we grow to be more like God, we will also be like that with the people around us.

**ADULT QUESTIONS:**

Have you ever felt or experienced what this father experienced?

Who do you identify with in this story? Why?

Describe God's love.

HE STILL MOVES STONES by Max Lucado (We did these activities while the adults were going through this book.)

**LUKE 15:25-32**

God forgives ALL people who change their hearts and minds and are sorry for what they have done wrong. Is there someone you know about that it would be hard to forgive?

List all the good things about yourself. What do you DESERVE because you are so good?

Life is not fair. Talk about what that usually means when you say it.

How do you think Jesus' brothers and sisters felt about Him?

Remember how Joseph's brothers treated him?

Remember how Jonah felt when God forgave the Ninevites?

Tell a real disappointment in your life.

left out?

rejected?

betrayed?

What is bitterness?....

Grumbling

Sulking

Accusing

Boasting

Whining

Angry

Arrogant

Have you ever whined at the Grocery store? What did you want?

Have everyone eat some bitter herbs (parsley?). This is what you "taste" like to others when you are bitter.

Handcuffs - Do you want to handcuff yourself to your pain (bitterness) or do you want to go to the party?

Bitterness goes away when we realize whose child we are....When we focus on what we do have, not on what we don't have.

James 1:13-15 - Evil desire brings sin brings death

I Thessalonians 5:18 - "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Make a family chart out of posterboard or cardstock. Each family member (including parents) should have a space. Put the chart on the refrigerator. When another family member hears someone complain, they draw a sad face in the complainers area. When another family members hears a "thank you", they must draw a star in the "thankful" persons area. Do this for a week, then sit down as a family and talk about the success or failure of your family's attitudes.

**Drama - The lost sheep by Maurice Sweetsur**