

CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE

KIDS & YOUTH STUDY GUIDE | MARCH 10



KEY POINT

God celebrates when the lost are found and those who were dead find life.

SHARE

Highs & Lows

READ

Luke 15:1-32 (Storybook Bible p. 374 & p. 378)

WHAT IS A PARABLE?

Parables are special stories that Jesus told. They are meant to tell us something that is hard to say directly, and often - they catch us by surprise. For example, think about a story like the Parable of the Good Samaritan. At the end of the story, an unexpected person shows love and compassion to another!

Story Review (Younger Students)

- In each of the three stories, what happens to the lost object or person?
 - *They are found.*
- What do the shepherd, woman, and father do when their lost object or person is found?
 - *They are happy and celebrate with friends.*
- Sometimes we might feel lost and far away from God. How do you think God feels when we are lost?
- How do you think God feels when we are found and return?
 - *[Happy, excited, joyful, wants to celebrate, etc.]*

Story Review Wrap-up: Sometimes we might feel lost and far away from God. But God finds us! Just like the people in the story who lost something, God is also happy when we return. Like the people, God celebrates, to!

Story Review (Older Students)

- Why were the Pharisees and scribes so upset with Jesus?
 - *He was spending time with sinners and tax collectors*
- How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees' and the scribes' grumbling?
 - *By telling them parables.*
- In the first two parables, what happens to the sheep and the coin after they are lost?
 - *They are found, and the shepherd and woman rejoice.*
- In the story about the son, how does the father react when his younger son returns home?
 - *He is happy and throws a party for his son.*
- Why do you think the father is so happy when his younger son returns home, even though the son did many bad things?
- How do you feel when you find something that is lost? How do you think God feels?
- Has there ever been a time in your life when you have felt lost? What happened?

Story Review Wrap-up: Sometimes we might feel lost and far away from God. But God finds us! Just like the people in the story who lost something, God is also happy when we return. Like the people, God celebrates, to!

ACTIVITIES

See attached sheets for activities

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for showing us kindness and love. Help us to show kindness and love to other people, and help us love you more everyday.
Amen

BLESS

Mark the sign of the cross and say "Jesus loves you!"



ACTIVITIES

Make a Sheep (Younger Students)

Supplies: Glue, Cotton Balls, Sheep

Do: Hand out paper sheep, glue and cotton balls.

Say: You will glue the cotton balls to the paper, making a sheep.

Say: The sheep is an important symbol in the first parable found in today's story.

Game: Hidden Coins/Lost Sheep

Supplies: Coins (Older students) | Cotton Balls (Younger Students)

Set-up Before Class: Hide coins/Cotton Balls in different spots in your classroom.

Say: Tell students that you have hidden a number of (coins or sheep) around the classroom. At your signal, they should explore the room and find the hidden [coins or sheep]. You can only find **1** at a time.

Do: Give the signal to begin searching. As coins/sheep are found, they should be brought to you. After all of the coins have been found, invite the class to gather back together.

If Time Allows: If you have time, hide the coins/sheep and play the game again.

Ask:

- How did you feel after you found the lost coins/sheep?
 - *Happy, excited, joyful, etc.*
- Why do you think God rejoices when the lost are found?
 - *God loves us, God cares for us, God likes when the lost are found, etc.*

News Report (Older Students)

Supplies: scrap paper, pencils

Do: Split the class into three groups. Assign each group one of the three parables.

Say: Students should work with their group to create a skit that retells their parable. However, the skit should be in the form of a news report.

Do: Give groups time to create and practice their skits. After groups have practiced their skits, gather the class back together. Ask each group to share their skits with each other.

Game: Coin Lost (Older Students)

Supplies: coins

Say: Sometimes, it is easy to find those who are lost. Sometimes, when we feel lost, we might not want to be found, or at least we think that.

Ask:

- How can people get lost?
- How can we find someone who is lost?
- How can people lose their faith?
- How can we help them find their faith?

Say/Do: Let's play a lost and found game. Have youth form a circle with one person in the middle.

Those in the circle will pass a coin behind their backs while the youth in the middle guesses where the coin is.

Several variations could be added—not in a circle, extra coins, more than one person in the middle.

Say: Think of those who want to be found, and pray for them this week.

CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE

HIGH SCHOOL GUIDESHEET | March 10



KEY POINT

God celebrates when the lost are found and those who were dead find life.

SHARE

Highs & Lows

OPENING PRAYER

God, help us to understand the depth of your love, a love that causes you to celebrate when the lost are found and when those who were dead find life. Amen.

READ

WHAT IS A PARABLE?

Parables are special stories that Jesus told. They are meant to tell us something that is hard to say directly, and often - they catch us by surprise. For example, think about a story like the Parable of the Good Samaritan. At the end of the story, an unexpected person shows love and compassion to another!

Read Luke 15:1-32

DISCUSS

Use the following questions to discuss the day's Bible passage and how it relates to your lives.

Understand

- In today's Bible passage, what was lost and then found?
- How did each person respond when what was lost was found?

Wrestle

- Why do other things or people lose our attention when someone or something is lost?
- Do those who are lost mean more to God than those who are already found? Explain your answer.
- What do you think about the prodigal's brother?
- Was he lost while still living at home, jealous of the attention paid to his sibling, unforgiving of his brother's behavior, or something else? Explain.

Share

- Share, write, or draw about how you reacted when you found something that you had lost or about what it felt like when something you treasured or needed was lost.

Apply

- What will you do this week to celebrate the moments when you or others recognize God's hand in your life experience? Who will you pray for this week with zeal like you are searching for something that is lost—specifically praying that the person will know God and God's love?

ACTIVITIES

Use the attached activities to have a hands on way of sharing the message of this week's lesson.

PRAY

Dear God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for finding us when we are lost. Help us remember and return to you. Amen

BLESS

Mark the sign of the cross and say "Jesus loves you!"

