

“Lost & Found”

Luke 15:1-24

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people - even eating with them!

Luke 15:1-2 (NLT)

The Lost Sheep.

So Jesus told them this story: “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!

Luke 15:3-7 (NLT)

We search for what is lost.

The Lost Coin.

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won’t she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels when even one sinner repents.”

Luke 15:8-10 (NLT)

We celebrate when the lost is found.

The Lost Child.

To illustrate the point further, Jesus told them this story: “A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘I want my share

of your estate now before you die.’ So his father agreed to divide his wealth between his sons.

“A few days later this younger son packed all his belongings and moved to a distant land, and there he wasted all his money in wild living. About the time his money ran out, a great famine swept over the land, and he began to starve. He persuaded a local farmer to hire him, and the man sent him into his fields to feed the pigs. The young man became so hungry that even the pods he was feeding the pigs looked good to him. But no one gave him anything.

“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.’”

“So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.’

“But his father said to the servants, ‘Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.’ So the party began.

Luke 15:11-24 (NLT)

We welcome home the lost.

SO WHAT?

Who do you know that is lost?

For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Luke 19:10 (NLT)

notes

Growth Group Questions

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. What is the most valuable thing you have ever lost? and what did you do to try and find it?
2. Have you ever lost a pet? What happened and what did you do to try and find it?
3. Have you ever lost someone you love? (even for just a few moments) How is losing someone different from losing a possession or a pet?
4. Re-read Luke 15:1-2. Where are you spending time with people who are far from God, or 'notorious sinners'?
5. Re-Read The parable of the Lost son (Luke 15:11-32) Who do you most identify with right now? The Father (or mother)? The lost son? or the oldest son? Why?

Read Romans 3:23. Have you had a season where you related to the lost son in the story?
6. Have you been waiting for anyone to return to a life of following God? If so, who and what is your role in helping them return? What is outside of your control?
7. Who is on your heart that is lost right now? Pray for them together as a group. **AND** call or send a text message to them tonight. Invite them to dinner or your growth group, or something else that will continue to build your relationship with them.