

WEEK 2 | LUKE 15 | THE LOST SON

This week's parable is the well-loved story of The Prodigal Son as recorded in Luke 15. When we read this chapter we discover not one but three parables about lost things that are found. Let's take a look at all three and discover what we can learn about God and what it means to be part of the Kingdom of God.

Please read Luke 15.

What was the occasion that prompted Jesus to tell these stories about celebrating when lost things are found? (v 1-2)

Consider the parables of **The Lost Sheep** (v 4-7) and **The Lost Coin** (v 8-10). Use the space below to describe the common elements or themes found in both.

Now let's turn our attention to the star of the show; the parable of **The Lost Son**. (v 11-32). This parable contains several details that are surprising or even shocking to the reader. In the space below, list some of the features of this story that meet that criteria for you.

There is an obvious theme of "lost things" running through all three parables, but are there aspects of The Lost Son that set it apart from the first two? How is it different?

Given the context of Luke 15, who do you think the characters in the third story represented?

- The Father?

- The Older Brother?
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- The Younger Brother?

What do we learn about God in this parable? Make a list of at least a few things.

Where do you see yourself in this story? What might God be saying to you in this parable?

Read and summarize the following verses that reaffirm the character of God as seen in Luke 15.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Psalms 86:15

Psalms 103:1-5

Micah 7:18

2 Peter 3:9

I John 1:9

Weekly Challenge

In one sense, the parable of The Lost Son is a story of repentance. In order to be right with the father the younger son had to repent of his rebellion and sinful ways. The older son also had some repenting to do. If he was going to be right with the father he needed to leave behind his self-righteousness and learn to share the father's joy in seeing a lost person find redemption. What about you? Spend some time praying this week for a closer walk with the Father and repenting of any attitudes, habits, or desires that might be keeping you from experiencing that.

Group Discussion

For the group discussion time this week we are not providing the normal 6-8 discussion questions. Instead we are inviting your group to spend some time getting to know one another in a deeper way by responding to a single, two-part question. (Leader: Think about the number of people in your group and the time you have for this discussion in order to suggest some guidelines as to how much time each person has to respond. For example, if you have eight people in your group and 40 minutes for this discussion, let the group know that each person has up to five minutes in which to answer the following question.)

Who do you relate to most in the parable of The Prodigal Son and why?