

LESSON 2

PARABLES OF A
GOD WHO PURSUES US



LOST

villagebible.church/lost

The Parable of the Lost Coin

Open It

1. What is your most prized possession? Why is it significant to you?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Luke 15:8–10

2. What differences are there between the parable of the Lost Coin and the Lost Sheep?
3. Why did Jesus share this parable?
4. What can we learn about God from this parable?
5. What can we learn about ourselves from this parable?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: THE MISSING COIN

Read Luke 15:8

What's the big fuss about this missing coin? You might be wondering why the woman cared so much about this coin. After all, if you lost a quarter, you probably aren't going to tear the house apart looking for it. Even if you lost a dollar coin you probably wouldn't tear the house apart. So why was this coin so important to this woman?

These ten coins spoken of in the parable were bound together as a dowry for her wedding day! A dowry was property or money that was brought by a bride to give to her husband on their wedding day as a gift. In our culture, we don't use dowries and the concept is very foreign to us. But in other cultures, even today, dowries are still a popular thing. This dowry would have signified the woman's status, wealth and faithfulness. That's why it was such a big deal for this woman to find this coin, because without it, her wedding could fall apart, and her character and reputation stained.¹

Jesus is making the point that a lost sinner is of as much value to Him as this coin would have been to the woman who had lost it and, He would go to great lengths to find that sinner.

6. What are some examples of things that we might have today that are symbols of our status and character?

7. What lesson(s) do you think Jesus is trying to teach the Pharisees by sharing this particular parable? Maybe He is trying to teach them more than one thing. Write down as many as you can think of.

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Lord, help me to find value in every person, just like You found great value in me, even when I was lost. Thank You that You searched for me and found me.

¹ Devotional by Joshua Ong entitled "The Parable of the Lost Coin" found @ <https://www.thejoshlink.com/article289.htm>

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: LOST AT HOME

Read Hebrews 3:1–6

The parable of the lost sheep and the lost coin are very similar, but I'm sure you've noticed a couple of differences between the two. The shepherd and the woman, the sheep and the coin, and the open country and the house. Jesus is showing in this parable that people who are inside the house of God can be lost. Even though it may seem more obvious about the people outside God's house, both are still equally lost, and both need to be found.

It's quite possible that there are lost people who go to church every Sunday or are part of the student ministry every week. There are lost people who may seem like really "good people"—they aren't getting into trouble, they do what the Bible says they should do, and know how to talk the talk. But all the while, these people don't know Jesus as their Savior. They, just like the people who are clearly not walking with God, need to be found as well.

8. How can someone be so involved in church and know all kinds of stuff about the Bible and still be lost?

9. How do you think people can become fooled into believing they are saved when they truly aren't?

10. How would you go about trying to help someone realize they are lost when they believe they've been found, and they could tell you all the stuff you're going to tell them?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Lord, I pray for people who come to church all the time and know all the lingo but don't know You. I pray that You would open their hearts and minds to realize that they are lost and in need of a Savior. Help me be a witness to them, that they might be saved. Amen.

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: WELCOME HOME

Read John 3:19

When we think of a house, we naturally think of the houses we live in today. There are often many rooms, comfortable furniture, painted walls, carpet or hardwood flooring and the like. So when we think of this lady searching frantically through her home, we might think of it a lot like our homes today. But the reality is that her home was very different from ours.

The average home during the first century was not as glamorous as ours are today. The people of the day spent much of their time outside and didn't build homes with the intent of being inside during the day. They were more suited for shelter and function than comfort and entertainment. Many of them were very dark, with not many windows. They would have been dirtier than our homes are. I always remember my mom telling us to take off our shoes at the door before we tracked the mud inside as a kid. But the homes at that time often had mud floors that would be covered sometimes with reeds and leaves to help make them cleaner. And you think your floors might get dirty!²

So when this lady is taking out a lamp and sweeping her house to find this lost coin, it was almost like trying to find a needle in a haystack. And this really shows the effort she had to put out to find this valuable coin. She had to work hard! Maybe you know the feeling. Maybe your room is a mess and you can hardly see the floor and you're looking for that one particular little thing and you just can't find it!

11. The coin was lost in the woman's dark home. The Bible teaches that lost unbelievers are living in darkness. Why do you think people choose to live their lives in darkness?

12. How does shedding some light over a world of darkness help sinners to be found? How can we practically shine light to the lost world around us?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Lord, thank You for searching so diligently to find me and save me. Help me to shine light on the lost world around me, that they might be found, too!

² <https://www.preceptaustin.org/luke-15-commentary>

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: FOUND IT!

Read Luke 15:9

DEVOTION—Now that we understand the value of the coin and the effort that was put into finding it, we can have a better understanding of the joy that the woman experienced when she found the coin! You may have lost a coin of your own and not have thought it was that big a deal, but for this woman, finding her lost coin changed her life!

When we were lost, we lived in sin, or we lived unrepentant lives. When God found us, our whole life changed too! We no longer have to live lives enslaved to sin, but we can share in the joy that our Heavenly Father had when we repented and believed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. He is overjoyed and we should be, too!

13. Since God rejoices at our repentance, is there any sin in our lives that we can repent of today?

14. Have you ever celebrated with your friends and neighbors like the woman does when she finds her coin? How can we celebrate like that with our small group?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here are some things you could pray for today:

- Knowing that God is ready to forgive and celebrate the repentant one, take time to repent of any ongoing sin in your life.
- Praise God for the joy that He has when He finds one of His children who were lost.

Day 6

TODAY'S THEME: LET ME TELL YA...

Read Luke 15:10; Psalm 8

Jesus is always doing a couple of things with His parables. First, he is addressing a current issue that is before him (like the grumbling Pharisees) and second, he is giving an earthly example that would help his listeners understand heavenly truths.

After this parable, Jesus says there is joy before the angels when a sinner repents. At a quick glance, it's just like the celebration and joy from the lost sheep, but this time there are angels! And that's a pretty big deal.

See, to the angels, salvation is a mysterious thing. The Bible says that the angels long to look into it.³ See, when the angels sinned and rebelled against God, a third of them were cast out of heaven and were never given a second chance. But as sinful people, God looked at us and didn't just condemn us all to hell, but instead he offered a second chance—a new life. And He didn't just offer it, but He sacrificed Himself on the cross to give it to us. So it's no wonder that when a sinner repents and is saved, the angels rejoice because it's quite a miraculous and wonderful thing to happen.

15. What does this say about how much God loves humanity?

16. We celebrate a lot of things in life. How do we celebrate people getting saved? How could you join in the celebration of new believers?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Lord, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and to rise again. Thank you for the second chance You've given me to live eternally with You. I pray that more people around me would be saved so we can join the heavenly celebration of the lost being found! Amen.

³ 1 Peter 1:3–12

Note: This study was compiled and questions were written by Pastor Tim Badal, Pastor Jeremy Anderson and Mitch Friestad, Village Bible Church.