

**Date: 3.16.25 | Title: Lost Sheep, Lost Coin and Lost Son | Scripture: Luke 15**

## LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

### Middle School Students:

Jesus is fully God and fully man, and He is altogether Holy

Jesus lived for the glory of the Father and taught that we should do the same through lives of worship

Jesus is the only way people can connect with God

Because Jesus is God, He had the power to perform miracles

### High School Students:

From the beginning, God planned that Jesus would save people from their sins.

Jesus is fully God and fully man, and despite being tempted while on earth, remained altogether free from sin.

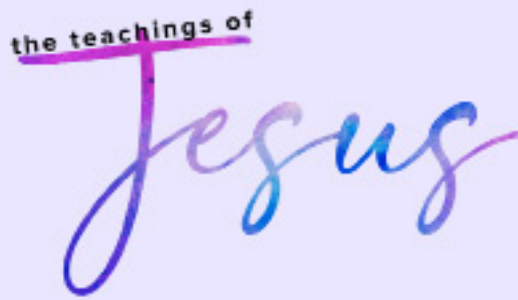
Because of Jesus, we who were once separated due to sin are now accepted into His presence due to Christ's righteousness

Whereas many claim that Jesus was a good man or a great teacher, the truth is that Jesus is God



**MEMORY  
VERSE**

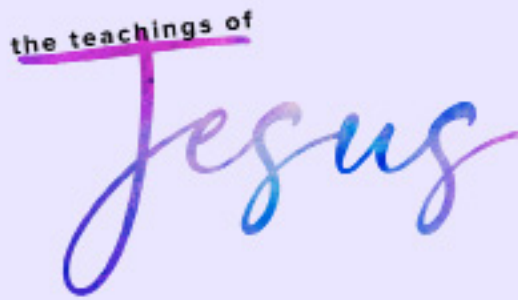
**"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45**



## INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

**Bring or pull up several examples of maps to share with the students. These can be maps of Easley, maps of SC, maps of the United States, or maps of a local zoo, waterpark, mall, etc. See if a student can draw a map from the church to their house without looking on their phone.**

**Tell the students that maps are helpful when we need to know how to get from one location to another or when we are lost. The Bible teaches that because of sin we are all lost, or separated from God. The good news is that God has given us the way to be found! The Bible is like a map because it points us to Jesus- He is the only way to God. In today's lesson, we will learn that God sent Jesus to seek and save people lost in sin.**



## BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

At the beginning of this unit we studied Jesus' most famous sermon- the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus taught His disciples what life as a follower of Jesus should look like. Disciples are to bring glory to God and show love toward others. We learned that how we live reveals what is in our hearts. Next, we learned that through short stories called parables, Jesus taught people about His kingdom and how they can live to honor Him. When we obey Jesus' teachings, we show others what God's kingdom is like. Last week we learned that Jesus taught His disciples about what was going to happen regarding His death on the cross and resurrection.

The disciples didn't fully understand what Jesus was teaching and that this was the entire reason God had sent Him.

During this time, there were still many people with questions about who Jesus was and the things He was doing. Some of the religious leaders, the Pharisees, didn't like that Jesus spent time with people who had done bad things and thought Jesus should only love people who followed the rules. Jesus told 3 stories to show God's relentless love, even for those who are far from Him.

**The Lost Sheep** – A shepherd had 100 sheep, but one got lost. The shepherd left the 99 to go find the one lost sheep because it was so important to him. When he found it, he was so happy!

**The Lost Coin** – A woman lost a precious coin and searched her whole house to find it. When she finally did, she celebrated!

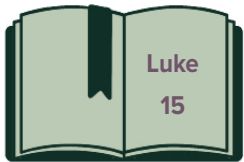
**The Lost Son (The Prodigal Son)** – A son left home and made bad choices, but when he came back, his father welcomed him with open arms because he still loved him.

The three stories in Luke 15 show that Jesus cares about people who are far from God—whether they have turned away from Him or have never really known His love. He also cares about people who act like they are good but still have sin in their hearts. Everyone needs God's love.

Reading Luke 15 should stir our hope for those around us who are far from God and in need of salvation or restoration. It should also cause us to see our own need for the love and grace of God. The love of God is relentless, coming after us in our time of need. Whether He is leading us to Himself in salvation or leading us to repentance from our sin, Jesus is in pursuit. We are all always in need of His love and grace.

# the teachings of Jesus

## LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



TELL  
THE  
STORY



Read directly from  
Scripture, use The  
Jesus Storybook  
Bible, The Biggest  
Story Bible, or the  
summary provided  
in the lesson

Remind your group that we are now studying the New Testament. The first four books, the gospels, tell the story of Jesus' time as a man on earth from the voice of different authors.

Tell the story:

Tax collectors and sinners came to listen to Jesus teach. Jesus told them three parables to teach them about God's love. Jesus said, "If a man has 100 sheep and loses one, he leaves the 99 sheep and searches for the lost sheep until he finds it. Then he tells his friends and neighbors, 'Let's celebrate! I found my lost sheep!' In heaven, there is more joy when one sinner repents and turns back to God than for 99 people who did not wander off."

Jesus also said, "If a woman has 10 silver coins and loses one of them, she lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches carefully until she finds it. Then she tells her friends and neighbors, 'Let's celebrate! I found my lost coin!'" Then Jesus repeated, "In heaven, there is joy when one sinner repents and turns back to God."

Jesus told a third story. "A man had two sons. The younger son said, 'Father, give me my inheritance.' The father gave his son his share, and the son went to another country. He wasted his money and lived foolishly. There was a famine, and the people in that country did not have enough food. The son got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry, even the pigs' food looked tasty.

"The younger son decided to go back to his father and admit he was wrong.

He would ask to work for his father like the servants.

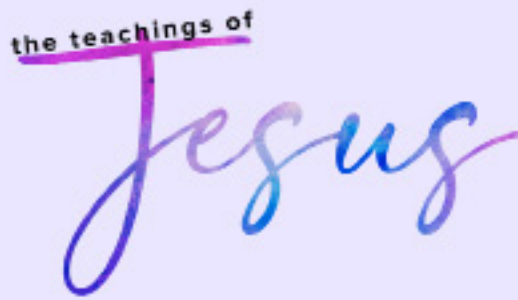
"The younger son headed home. He was still a long way away when his father saw him coming. His father ran to him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him.

The son began to apologize. I have sinned against God and against you,' he said.

"But the father told his servants, 'Let's celebrate with a feast! Bring the best robe and put it on my son! This son of mine was lost, and now he is found!'

Put the events  
in order, draw a  
comic strip, build  
it with blocks or  
playdough, act it  
out, etc...





**“At this time, the older son came from the fields and heard music at the house.**

**‘What’s going on?’ he asked one of the servants.**

**‘Your brother is here,’ the servant said. ‘Your father is celebrating.’**

**“The older brother was angry! He refused to go to the feast. The father asked him to come inside. The older brother said, ‘I never disobeyed you! But you never threw a party for me.’**

**“The father said, ‘Everything I have is yours. We have to celebrate. Your brother was lost and is found.’”**

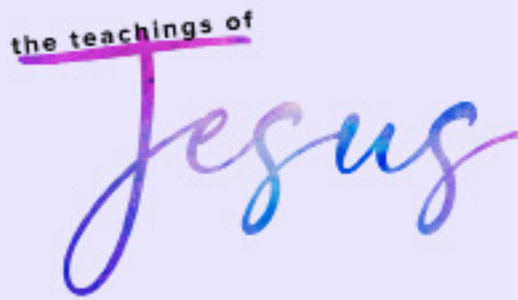
**Jesus told these parables to teach about God’s love. God sent Jesus so sinners can be forgiven. As Savior, Jesus loves and seeks sinners. He paid the ultimate price-**

**His own life- to save people from sin.**

**Re-tell the Bible Story: Have students ret-ell the story as best they can.**

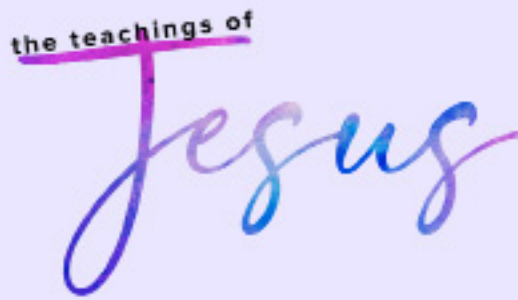
**Share the GOSPEL:**

**The Bible reveals God’s plan to save people from sin. Even from Adam and Eve’s initial sin, God had a plan to send Jesus into the world to seek and save sinful people. When Jesus came to earth, He fulfilled God’s plan and taught people that He is the Messiah God promised. It is only by faith in Jesus that we are saved and able to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus came to rescue us from sin and bring us back to God. Like the father inviting the older brother to the party, we are all invited to trust in Jesus and be saved. We can rejoice when others put their faith in Jesus for forgiveness of sins. God’s love is for all people. Through Jesus, God has extended an invitation for people to accept His love and find forgiveness. When we do, all of heaven celebrates that a sinner has been saved! Believers then have an opportunity to tell others about the love God has for them through Jesus.**



**Not everyone was excited when the prodigal son returned home. When the older brother heard the music and saw the dancing, he was angry and refused to join in the celebration. He complained just like the Pharisees and scribes did. He told his father, “What are you doing? Look, all these years I have faithfully served you and never disobeyed you, and you have never thrown even a little party for me, but you have thrown a big party for this sinful son of yours, who did terrible things and spent all the money you gave him. Why?” (15:29–30). The other son thought the father’s favor was to be earned through obedience and good works, so he was unhappy to find out his father’s love was an undeserved gift. The father replied to the older son, “Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found” (15:31–32). The older brother’s thinking is common even today. It’s easy to think we deserve God’s salvation because we’ve done enough good things. We think we’re not as bad as others. Jesus told the three “lost” parables to correct such thinking. All heaven rejoices when someone repents of their sins and returns to God. When the lost are found. That is why Jesus came and spent time with sinners—to seek and save the lost, like us. When we understand the true gospel, we rejoice that God came to rescue sinners of all kinds.**

**The son made sinful choices and wasted his inheritance. He admitted he was no longer worthy to be the father’s son. The sinful choices he made brought guilt and shame, but after the son confessed his sin, the father forgave him. Our sin brings guilt, shame, and separation from God. The good news is that while there may be consequences for our sin, no sin is too bad for God to stop loving us. God’s love for us is greater than anything we may do. Just like the father clothed his son in his best robe, when we place our faith in Jesus, we are clothed in His righteousness. God loves us and invites each of us to trust Him by faith in Jesus.**



## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**ATTENTIVE** - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

**COMPASSIONATE** - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

**CREATOR** - God made everything. He is uncreated.

**DELIVERER** - God rescues and saves his children.

**ETERNAL** - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

**FAITHFUL** - God always keeps his promises.

**GENEROUS** - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

**GLORIOUS** - God displays His greatness and worth.

**GOOD** - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

**HOLY** - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

**IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING** - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

**INCOMPREHENSIBLE** - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

**INFINITE** - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

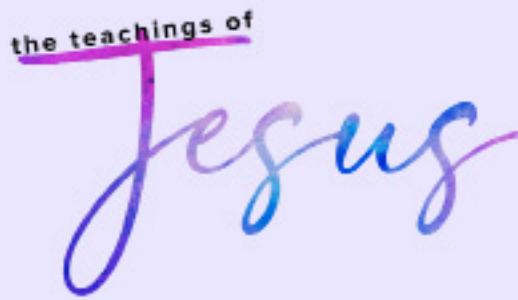
**JEALOUS** - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

**JUST** - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

**LOVING** - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

**MERCIFUL** - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

**OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY** - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.



## ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

**OMNIPRESENT** - God is fully present everywhere.

**OMNISCIENT** - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

**PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING** - God is untiring and bears with His children.

**PROVIDER** - God meets the needs of his children.

**REFUGE** - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

**RIGHTEOUS** - God is always good and right.

**SELF-EXISTENT** - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

**SELF-SUFFICIENT** - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

**SOVEREIGN** - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

**TRANSCENDENT** - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

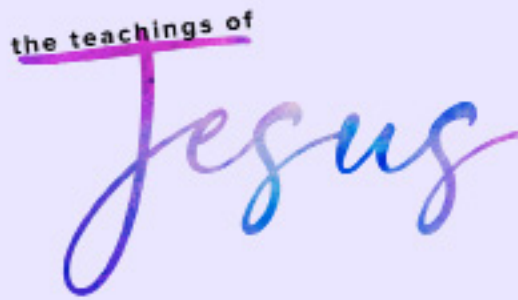
**TRUTHFUL** - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

**WISE** - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

**WORTHY** - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

**WRATHFUL** - God hates all unrighteousness.





## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**“Storying” Questions:** As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

1. Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus?

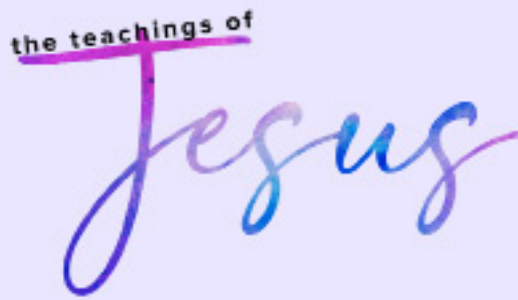
2. Whom did Jesus come to save?

3. All three stories Jesus told in Luke 15 had a common point. What was it? *Read Luke 15:7. Jesus taught that heaven rejoices when a sinner repents. When someone repents of sin, they turn away from their sin and turn to Jesus by faith. Just as the shepherd looked for his lost sheep and the woman looked for her lost coin, Jesus came to seek and save sinners who are lost in their sin without Him. When we are saved, all of heaven rejoices.*

4. In the last parable, what was lost? What had he done to ruin his life? How did the son think his father would respond when he returned? How did the father respond? What does the story teach us about our Father in heaven?

5. What are some of the things the father did when his son returned home? Why did he do them? What does this teach us about how God feels when a sinner repents and returns to Him?

6. How did the older brother feel when his brother returned home and his father rejoiced? Would you have felt the same way? What did his father encourage him to do? How should we feel if Jesus has found us?



## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

7. When the lost son came home and begged his father to become a servant in his household, how did the father respond? *He rejoiced that his son was home. He threw a party and invited his friends to share in his joy.*

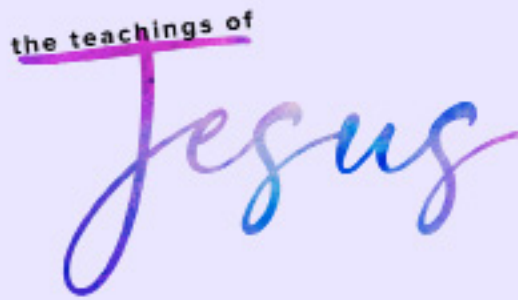
8. How does the father's love towards his sons help us understand the love God has for us?

9. The father showed love through forgiveness, mercy, and an invitation to join him at the feast.

10. The older brother never left home, but he was also lost. How did the older brother's response show he was lost too? *Read Luke 15:28-30. He was angry and refused to go to the party. He dishonored the father through his pride and selfishness. The older brother revealed that he thought his behavior and service was enough to please his father. The older brother refused to celebrate his younger brother's return and accused the father of being unloving toward him. He also needed to repent and to trust in his father's love. Even though the older brother never left home, his heart showed that he did not truly love his father or his brother but thought only of himself.*

11. Can we be saved without repentance? Why or why not? *Read Luke 15:7. Trusting in Jesus means that we recognize our sin and want to turn away from it. Self-righteousness like the Pharisees showed reveals that we think our behavior or present standing is enough to please God, where faith alone is enough.*

12. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?



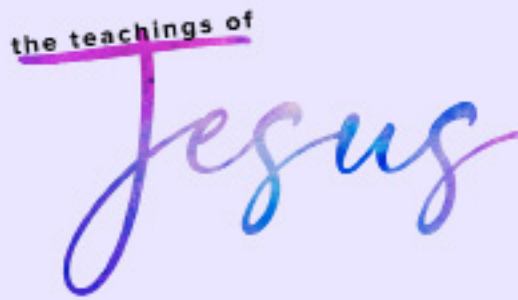
## QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

**13. What does the story teach me about myself?**

**14. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?**

**15. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?**

**16. How does this story help me live on mission?**



## PRAYER PROMPTS

God, thank You for Your incredible love for us. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to save sinners like us so that we can have a relationship with You and be saved. Help us share this good news with those around us. Amen.

## IF TIME ALLOWS:

See if any of the students can name all 12 disciples without looking it up.

## MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the months of March and April we will collect money for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in the giving funnel at the top of the lobby. Encourage your group to bring change to drop in as you head to the worship center after SS.

## REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Spend time reviewing memory verse with students.

FETSOMCNTBSBT SATGHLAARFM - Mark 10:45

the teachings of  
*Jesus*



## Application Questions

### LOOK UPWARD



- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

### LOOK INWARD



- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

### LOOK AROUND



- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is god inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

the teachings of  
*Jesus*



## Application Questions

### LOOK OUTWARD »»

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

### LOOK FORWARD »»»

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?