

Luke 15:1-32  
**THE LOST IS FOUND**

**KIDS  
3RD-6TH**

**NL**

**Key Verse:**

“We had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.”

Luke 15:32

**The Point:**

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

**Making Connections:**

Journey to the Cross

**Bible Nuts & Bolts:**

Parables

**Spiritual Practice:**

Service



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# BACKGROUND

## Making Connections

Last week, we heard stories in which Jesus commands us to repent by using strong language and storytelling. Through the Parable of the Fig Tree, we learn about the importance of repenting and following God's way. In Luke 14, Jesus performs healings and uses parables to encourage humility and repentance. This week's story paints a different picture of repentance: the three parables that make up today's text describe a loving God who seeks us and rejoices when we return to God.

## Story Summary:

### *The Lost Is Found*

Jesus tells three parables to the Pharisees who were complaining that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors. Jesus begins with the Parable of the Lost Sheep in which a shepherd went after one lost sheep, searching for it until it is brought safely home. The shepherd loves that one sheep so much that he would leave the other 99 in order to find the one that is lost. In the same way, God is reckless in God's pursuit of us. Then, the shepherd threw a party to rejoice that the sheep was found! The second parable Jesus tells is the Parable of the Lost Coin, in which a woman loses a coin and searches for it carefully until she finds it. Then, she calls together her friends and rejoices in finding the lost coin. Jesus compares the lost sheep and coin to a person who repents.

The final parable is the Parable of the Prodigal Son. A man has two sons, and one day the younger son asks his father for his inheritance. The son travels to another country and wastes all his money, leaving him with nothing. The son decides to return home and repent to his father. The son returns, and the father is overjoyed to see him. The father throws a party for the younger

son, which makes the older brother jealous. When the older son questions his father about the party, the father responds by saying that it is time to celebrate and rejoice because the lost son has returned home.

## The Point

**God celebrates when the lost are found and those who were dead find life.** Today's parables teach us that God is overjoyed when those who feel lost are found and celebrates when a person repents. This returning to God is what makes the lost found! Sometimes, it is difficult for us to be happy when someone is granted mercy, even if they have hurt us. We can be like the older brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son and want people to face justice without mercy for what they have done. However, God still loves us all and is happy when we are found.

## Bible Nuts & Bolts:

### *Parables*

Our story today contains three different parables. Parables are stories that teach a lesson. It is also common that parables have a surprising twist. Jesus taught people using parables. Parables typically use familiar objects and situations in order to teach a lesson about God and God's kingdom. In today's parables, Jesus tells us about the joy that God has in finding those who feel lost.

## Spiritual Practice: Service

The three parables in today's story tell us that there are people who feel lost and need to know the love of God. Serving those who feel lost in their faith is the perfect way to tell them about God's unconditional love! Today's Living the Story activity will provide students with the opportunity to serve someone who may feel far away from God.

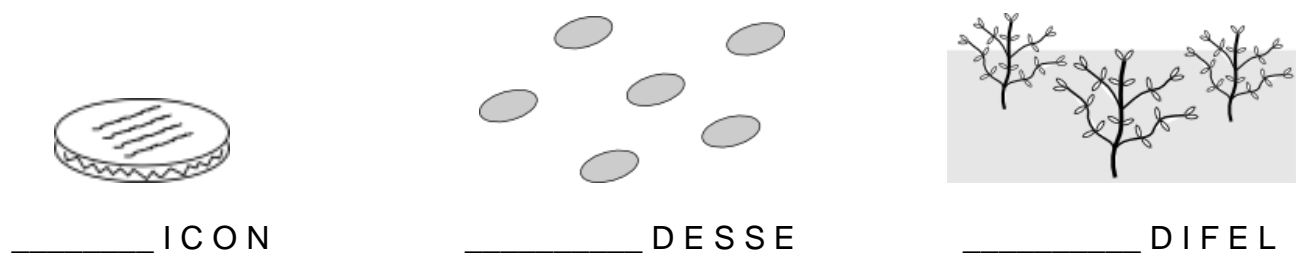


# Learn About Parables

Parables are stories told by Jesus. In these stories he used everyday objects to help us understand more about God.

## Everyday Things

Unscramble the names of some things Jesus talked about in his parables.



Word List: COIN, FIELD, SEEDS, SHEEP, TREE

## Lost Things

Luke 15 contains three stories about lost things. Read each verse, and find out what was lost and who was looking for it.

**Luke 15:6** (for the whole story read Luke 15:4-7)

Lost Thing \_\_\_\_\_ Person Looking \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 15:9** (for the whole story read Luke 15:8-10)

Lost Thing \_\_\_\_\_ Person Looking \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke 15:20** (for the whole story read Luke 15:11-24)

Lost Thing \_\_\_\_\_ Person Looking \_\_\_\_\_

In each story the lost thing represents a person who doesn't know God, and the person looking represents God. God wants to find every person who doesn't know him and bring all of them to himself.

Word List: coin, father, man (or shepherd), sheep, son, woman

## The Good Samaritan

When Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself," a man asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus told a story. In this parable a man who had a problem was helped by a Samaritan, a man he thought was his enemy.

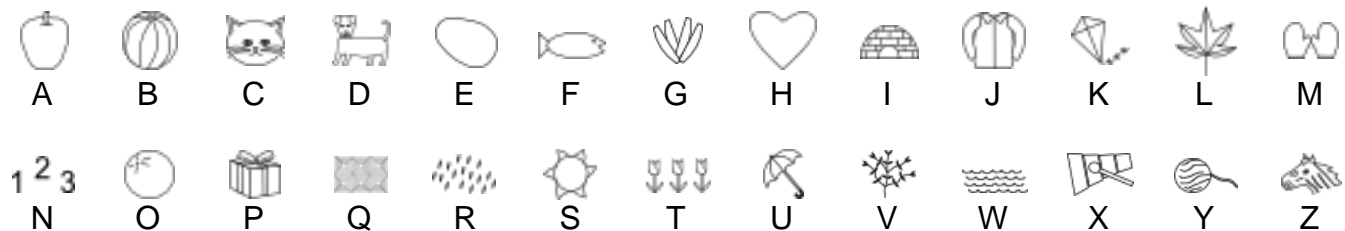
Read each verse, and number the events of the story in the right order.

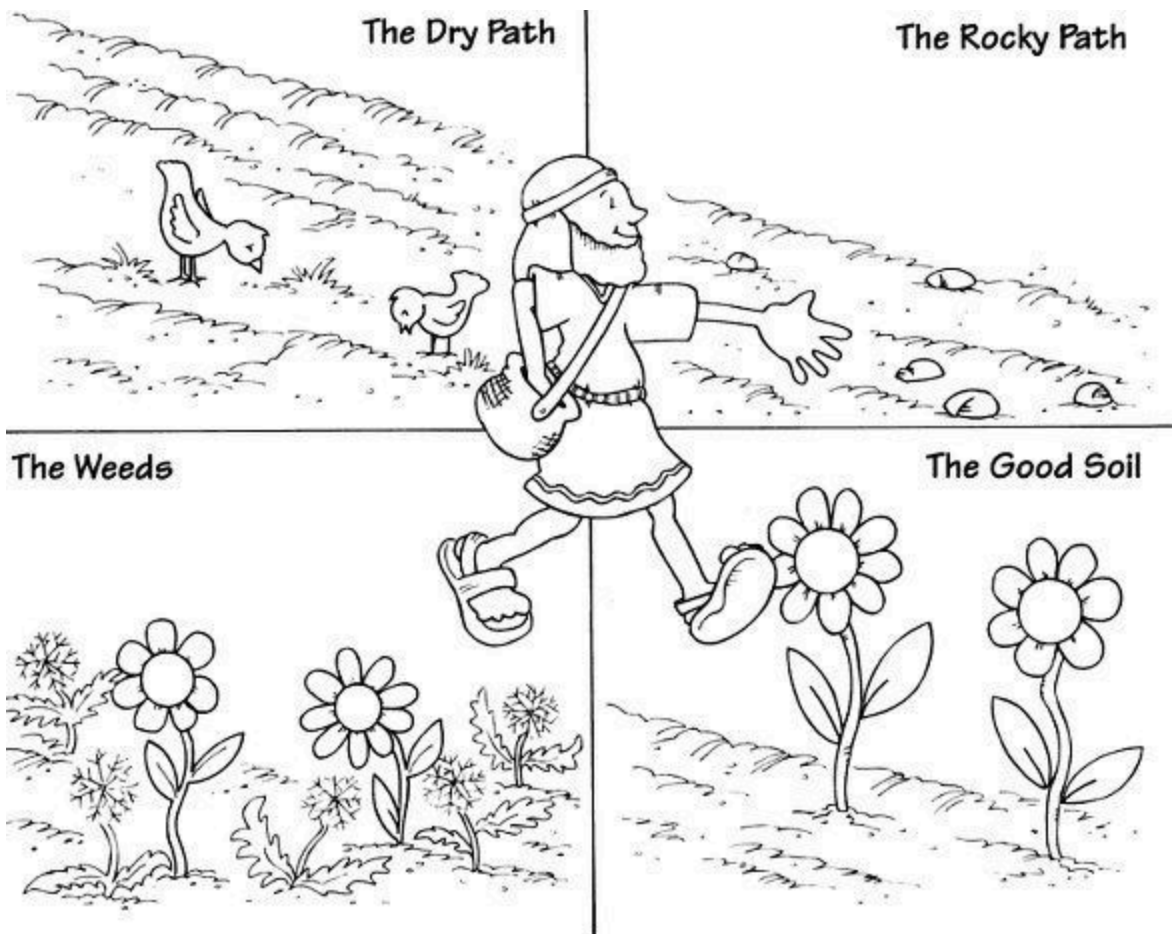
- |          |            |       |                                                                          |
|----------|------------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | Luke 10:30 | _____ | A Samaritan was sorry for the man and stopped to help.                   |
| <b>2</b> | Luke 10:31 | _____ | A man was robbed, beaten up, and left by the side of the road.           |
| <b>3</b> | Luke 10:32 | _____ | He bandaged the man and put him on his own donkey.                       |
| <b>4</b> | Luke 10:33 | _____ | A priest (temple leader) passed by the man and didn't stop to help.      |
| <b>5</b> | Luke 10:34 | _____ | He took the man to an inn (hotel) and left money to take care of him.    |
| <b>6</b> | Luke 10:35 | _____ | A Levite (temple helper) stopped to look at the man but didn't help him. |

## The Meaning of the Story



Code:





**THE SOWER**



**WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD**



# ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## Word Search



Circle or highlight each of the following words as you find it in the word search grid. Words may run across, down and diagonally and may overlap.

CLOVER

FIREWORKS

LEPRECHAUN

PATRICK

COINS

FOOD

LOVE

PINCH

DUBLIN

GOLD

LUCK

RAINBOW

EMERALD

GREEN

MAGIC

SAINT

FAIRIES

HOPE

MARCH

SEVENTEENTH

FAITH

IRELAND

MISSIONARY

SHAMROCK

FESTIVAL

IRISH

MUSIC

SHOEMAKER

FIDDLE

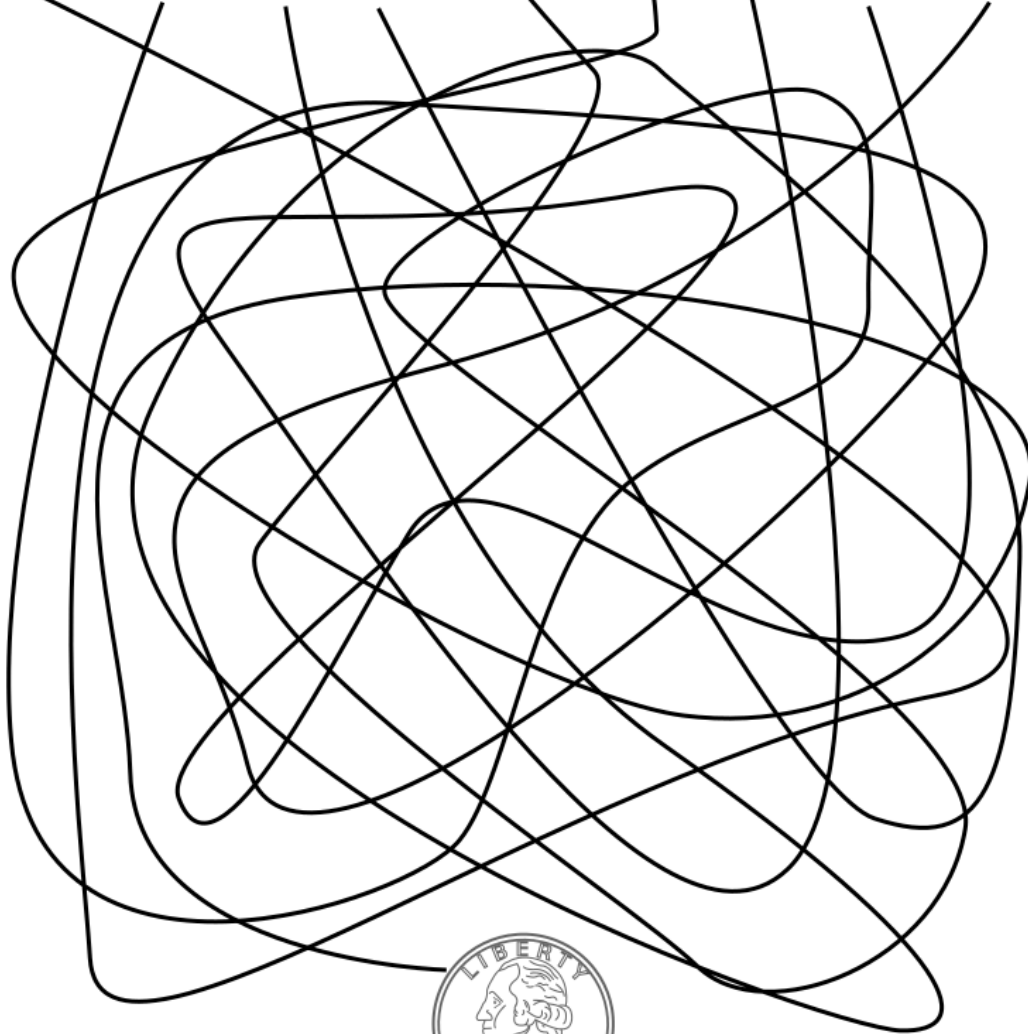
JIG

PARADE

WISHES

# Which line leads to the quarter ?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9





# THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS  
3RD-6TH**

**NL**

**Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story**  
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

**Lesson #3-28**  
**Luke 15:1-32**

## LAST WEEK

Jesus tells people that bad things do not happen because of people's sins, but he calls the people to change their ways. Then, he tells some Pharisees that he is going to Jerusalem be killed (Luke 13:1-9, 31-35).

## THIS WEEK

Jesus tells three parables. In the first two, when a sheep or a coin is lost, a great effort is exerted to find it. The third is the Parable of the Prodigal Son, where the father rejoices when a wandering son returns (Luke 15:1-32).

## STORY SUMMARY

### The Lost Is Found

Jesus tells three parables to the Pharisees who were complaining that he was eating with sinners. First, Jesus tells the Parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin. Jesus compares the lost sheep and coin to a person who repents. There is a joyful celebration when what is lost is found! The final parable is the Parable of the Prodigal—wasteful—Son. A man has two sons. The younger son asks his father for his inheritance. The son travels and wastes all his money. He decides to return home and repent to his father. The son returns, and the father is overjoyed. The father throws a party because his lost son has returned home.

### THE POINT

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

## NEXT WEEK

Jesus tells a story of a rich man and a man who was poor named Lazarus. They both die, and while Lazarus is comforted, the rich man suffers. Each experiences the opposite of what happened in their lives (Luke 16:19-31).

## PRACTICE SERVICE

The three parables in today's story tell us that there are people who feel lost and need to know the love of God. Serving them is the perfect way to tell them about God's unconditional love! Find one way your family can serve someone who may feel far from God. Volunteer time or invite them into fellowship. Show them God's unconditional love!

## BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

### Parables

Our story today contains three different parables—stories that teach a lesson. Examples of familiar parables include the parables we hear today, as well as Parables of the Good Samaritan and the Mustard Seed. Parables use familiar objects and situations in order to teach a lesson about God and God's kingdom, often with a surprising twist at the end. In today's parables, Jesus tells us about the joy that God has in finding those who are lost.



### *Family Discussions*

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ Where do you see the message that "It is GOOD" in this Scripture?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

### *Family Devotions*

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

#### **Sunday—Read Luke 15:1-32**

Jesus tells three parables about how the lost are found. Play a game of hide-and-seek, either in your home or outside. Why do you think God seeks after us and finds us?

#### **Monday—Read Psalm 119:169-176**

In this passage, the psalm writer praises God for seeking us out and finding us. Some psalms are songs of praise. Create your own song of praise by trying to set the words of this passage (even just one or two verses) to music.

#### **Tuesday—Read 1 Samuel 16:6-13**

God looks beyond outward appearance and chooses David, the youngest and smallest of his brothers, to be the king of Israel. Act out the passage. After you finish acting out the story, thank God for loving us, no matter who we are!

#### **Wednesday—Read Genesis 45:1-9**

Joseph reveals himself to his brothers after they have unknowingly spoken with him. Make masks that represent Joseph. Decorate paper plates with markers or crayons. If you are feeling very creative, decorate with colored paper, feathers, sequins, or other supplies.

#### **Thursday—Read Genesis 45:21-28**

Jacob is overjoyed when he learns that his son Joseph is still alive. Reread the story of The Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15:11-32. Compare this parable to Joseph's story in Genesis 45.

#### **Friday—Read Exodus 2:1-10**

Moses is born. After his mother places him in a basket on the river, the Pharaoh's daughter finds him. Find a basket to use for this activity. Have your family sit in a circle. Pass the basket around the circle. As each person holds the basket, they should share the name of one person who has helped them find their way home.

#### **Saturday—Read John 4:46-54**

Jesus heals a man's sick son, which causes the man to believe and return to God. Look through a story Bible (or other Bible) and read some other miracle stories. How do Jesus' miracles help others return to God?