

Luke 15:1-10 (NIV)

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Discussion Menu

Luke 5: 1-10

Whilst these original questions were intended for a café church style service, I offer these as a way to reflect on our own or with those who we may be isolated with. This passage is to help reflect on parent like traits of God, and how we can emulate these before others. This may be especially challenging during this season of isolation.

Starter:

How would it have felt? Have you been lost? Or have you ever had to try to find someone who was lost? What did you feel being lost? If/when reunited, how did that feel?

Mains:

A split crowd

5: 1-2

Jesus was sharing these parables (stories) to a large, but divided crowd: the religious leaders and teachers of the law, and those seen to be sinners which included tax collectors. Can you think about ways in which these stories were both encouraging for the sinners, but challenging for the religious leaders?

Searching and finding

5: 3-8

What extent would you go to, to find a lost sheep or coin? How many sheep would have to lose, before you leave the rest of the flock? 1,5,10?

The Grace of God

5:9-10

Jesus compares Heaven to these generous worldly actions of searching for the overlooked or undervalued, this reveals how much God loves us and pours out his grace. How do these stories help us to understand God's grace?

Dessert:

Where do we see Grace today? On the tv?

How can we seek God's grace and in turn be gracious towards others?

How, as church, can we seek the lost?
And celebrate with those who are found?

God's Grace:

Definition:

"Grace (from the Greek New Testament word *charis*) is God's unmerited favor. It is kindness from God that we don't deserve. There is nothing we have done, nor can ever do to earn this favor. It is a gift from God."¹

¹ taken from christianity.about.com/od/glossary/g/grace.htm