

The Parable of the Lost Coin- Luke 15:8-10

THE POINT

Focus:

God seeks lost people.
Individual people are important to God.

Application:

We rejoice in being treasured by God.
We rejoice when people come to faith in God.

Last Week: The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

2 Weeks Ago: The Parables of the Mustard Seed & the Unleavened Bread

HEART CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS:

- Clipboards
- Crayons
- Printed Face Outline for each child (widely available for free if you search: Face Outline in Google Images)
- Optional: Handheld mirrors (like make-up compacts)

Instructions:

Invite children to draw their portrait (with assistance of the face outline) surrounded by a few things that make them unique. This might include a ball from a favorite sport, a special skill, stick figures of their family, their dog, etc. After a few minutes, invite them to share with a neighbor or small group about their picture. How does it look like them? What is the same?

Transition to the lesson: Last week we talked about Jesus' parable story of a man who sold everything to follow God. This week we're going to learn Jesus' parable story of how God seeks individual people as his special treasure, too!

STORY CONNECTION (8 MINUTES)

Materials:

- Parable Roll (last week!)
- Optional: Previous lesson sheets if leaders have not led other Parable lessons

If you have time, invite children to recall the previous 3 weeks of parables; The Parable of the Sower, the Parable of the Mustard Seed, and the Parable of the Hidden Treasure.

Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.

Follow along on your own parable roll so that everyone can see you. Obviously the children are hiding their own coin, so they know where it is. They will still enjoy using tactile methods to feel and touch the story.

Gently unroll your yellow cloth saying something like, "Today we're going to learn another story that Jesus told, a parable." Move the pieces next to the yellow cloth and wait for the children to set up their story, too.

Luke 15:8-10

"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one.

Lay the brown cloth in the middle of the yellow one. Explain that this is the room of the woman's house. Place all beads (it's okay if there aren't 10!). Hide one under the corner of the cloth.

Won't she light a lamp and sweep the house?

Gently your finger around the whole brown square. Move the other beads to "look".

Won't she search carefully until she finds the coin?

"Find" the coin under the cloth.

And when she finds it, she will call her friends and neighbors together. She will say, 'Be joyful with me. I have found my lost coin.'

I tell you, it is the same in heaven. There is joy in heaven over one sinner who turns away from sin."

Along with the "I wonder" section, this is an appropriate time to talk about how you came to be "found" by God in faith. Children might also want to share how they have found something they lost, or how they have come to be found by God in faith, too.

WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what it might be like to search for a long time to find something.

I wonder how God feels when he searches for us.

I wonder what the rejoicing in heaven sounds like.

What do you wonder?

SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.