



Lost and Found, Part 1
Luke 15:1-10

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The challenge

The stories—an overview

The problem with being lost

The cost of being found

The joy of restoration



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Message-based Small Group Lesson

Overview

We often use stories and parables to teach and communicate ideas. The gospel of Luke contains some of the most well-known and loved parables of Jesus. More than simple stories, Jesus used them to communicate ideas and the very heart of God. In the same way, when Jesus—the creator of the universe—tells a story to a crowd, there is certain to be a purpose and something to be learned.

The key to understanding any of the parables is to understand the setting. So as you study today's stories, consider the setting, the characters, their roles, and hopefully you will discover what Jesus was trying to say to his listeners, as well as each of us!

Engaging with each other

1. What is the goofiest thing you've ever seen an animal do? OR Share about a recent time where you lost or found a possession.

Engaging with the Bible: read Luke 14:25-33

1. Describe the setting of Luke 15. Who are the hearers of these stories? What provokes Jesus to tell the stories?
2. What are some of the characteristics of the thing that is lost in each story?

3. How is sacrificial effort shown by the finder in each story? How does this show a picture of God's extravagant grace?
4. Read Psalm 23. What are some of the contrasts and parallels between Psalm 23 and the good shepherd?
5. What do you think is the importance of the community celebrations?

Engaging with our lives

1. What are the implications of these stories for people in their lost-ness?
2. How do these stories make you feel about your value to God?
3. How do the actions of the good shepherd and the good woman challenge the way we see other people?
4. Is there one step you can take this week to take initiative towards someone who is lost?