



KINGDOMCOME

parables of the kingdom

Pastor John will be preaching on the Parables of the Lost Sheep & the Lost Coin (Luke 15:1-10) this Sunday as part of our series on Jesus' parables of the Kingdom of God. As we are less than two weeks from Easter, this is an important lesson for thinking about who to invite to Easter.

FAMILY TIME

Take some time to share prayer requests and praise reports with each other and encourage folks to keep praying for each other's prayer requests throughout the week and to believe that these will become future praise reports.

DISCUSSION BASED BIBLE STUDY

See attached for a printout you can provide to your lifegroup members and for a simple guide on facilitating Bible studies.

Introduction question: Have you ever lost something, but then found it later? How did you feel when you were able to recover what you thought had been lost?

Luke 15:1-10 – Parables of the Lost Sheep & the Lost Coin

¹ 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. ⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins [each worth about a day's wages] 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."

Possible Discussion Questions:

- Why is one considered "lost" according to this passage?
- What is God's heart for sinners?
- What does repentance mean? What is the role of repentance?

APPLICATION

Who are the lost in our lives? Think about those in your various communities (e.g., family, friends, work, and hobbies). What is one thing we can do for each of these people to pursue them like the shepherd and coin owner in these parables?

SMALL GROUP

Break up into groups of 3-4 to share about the people in your lives that came to mind and take time praying together for these people and for us to move towards leading them to repentance. Encourage these small groups to keep praying for each other and each other's friends throughout the week.

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FACILITATING INDUCTIVE/DISCUSSION BASED BIBLE STUDIES

STEP 1: OBSERVATION (about 10-15 minutes)

- Before you begin, pray to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the truths of the passage and to speak to each person, including yourself!
- Start by giving everyone a printout of the passage and giving them a few minutes to read through the passage on their own. It would be helpful to provide pens and markers for people to make notes or write down questions.
- Then gather the group together and give people an opportunity to share their observations. The purpose here is to identify what's going on in the text and to make sure we're all on the same page since people might notice or miss things others didn't.
- You could ask people to answer the basic investigative questions who (is speaking, are the main characters, is being spoken to), what (is happening, is the cultural context of the passage, is the scene), where (is the passage taking place), when (did the events take place), and how (did Jesus, people respond)?
- You could also pay attention to key words and phrases.

STEP 2: QUESTIONS AND INTERPRETATION (about 30-45 minutes)

- After giving people an opportunity to fill out the details of the passage during observation time, move into a time of questions. Since we want people to engage with the text for themselves and to see who Jesus is for themselves, we want to allow their questions to guide the study.
- You could have people ask all their questions up front and then go through them together afterwards. This way you can start with the questions from the beginning of the passage and move towards the end. This is in case you come across a later question that can't be answered until an earlier one is.
- You will want to write down people's questions as they ask them so you can refer back to them later.
- As you go through the questions, your goal is to get the group to try and answer the question together. Don't worry about having all the answers! Your primary task is to facilitate discussion and to help foster a space where people can think through questions for themselves and be open to how God might want to speak to them.
- If you're short on time, feel free to cut short discussion on some of the less important questions or even to skip them altogether. We want to make sure we focus the bulk of our energy on the more important parts of the passage.
- It would be helpful to read through the passage ahead of time in order to gain an idea of what the key questions or the crucial parts might be.
- Try to limit this section to under 45 minutes so people have time and energy to go into application and small groups.

STEP 3: APPLICATION AND SMALL GROUPS (about 15-30 minutes)

- This is the most crucial part of the whole study! Whereas the first two steps can feel more intellectual, here is where we actively look to see what the passage means for us personally.
- You could give people a few minutes to reflect on the passage and on the discussion and to ask God what he is saying to them personally.
- Beyond general revelations, we also want people to identify how they can practically respond to the passage and put things into action. Putting things into practice is what allows God to change our lives.
- Then break up into small groups of 3-4 so that people can share with each other how God spoke to them through the passage and how they want to respond and also to pray for each other to be able to believe and obey what they heard from God.