

Unit 25, Session 2: Three Parables

Story Point: Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Big Picture Question: How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

Memory Verse: Colossians 1:13-14 “He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Bible Passage: Luke 15

Find the passages together in your Bibles and read through them together. You could also read the paraphrase of all these passages below. For younger kids, you may want to just read the blue, bolded portions.

The three parables told by Jesus in Luke 15 reveal God’s heart for the lost, but Jesus also uses these stories to call out the hearts of the self-righteous. Each parable centers around valuable things that have been lost: a sheep, a silver coin, and two sons. Just before Jesus shares about these lost valuables, the Pharisees and scribes (religious elite) complained that Jesus welcomed tax collectors and sinners. They were actually upset that Jesus would spend his time teaching people they considered unworthy.

Don’t you love that Jesus’ response to us is not like the Pharisees or the scribes? Instead, Jesus explains just how much all of heaven rejoices over a sinner that has been found (repented)! It’s a massive celebration! In telling the final parable of the two sons, Jesus leaves his self-righteous listeners with the same choice as the older son. They can repent of their arrogance and entitlement and join the celebration or stay outside and sulk, hoping that their good behavior will be enough to merit favor.

Tax collectors and sinners came to listen to Jesus teach. The religious leaders complained because Jesus welcomed sinners, so **Jesus told them three parables to teach them about God.**

Jesus said, “If a man has 100 sheep and loses one, what does he do? He leaves the 99 sheep and searches for the lost sheep until he finds it. Then he tells his friends and neighbors, ‘Let’s celebrate! I found my lost sheep!’ In heaven, there is more joy when one sinner repents and turns back to God than for 99 people who did not wander off.”

Jesus also said, “If a woman has 10 silver coins and loses one of them, what does she do? She lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches carefully until she finds it. Then she tells her friends and neighbors, ‘Let’s celebrate! I found my lost coin!’”

Then Jesus repeated, “In heaven, there is joy when one sinner repents and turns back to God.”

Jesus told a third story. “A man had two sons. The younger son said, ‘Father, give me my inheritance today.’ So the father gave his son his share. The younger son left home. He wasted his money and lived foolishly. There was a famine, and the people in that country did not have enough food. The son got a job feeding pigs. He was so hungry, even the pigs’ food looked tasty.

“The younger son made a plan. He would go back to his father and admit he was wrong. He would ask to work for his father like the servants.

“So the younger son headed home. He was still a long way away when his father saw him coming. His father ran to him, through his arms around him, and kissed him. The son began to apologize. ‘I have sinned against God and against you,’ he said.

“But the father told his servants, ‘Let’s celebrate with a feast! Bring the best robe and put it on my son! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. This son of mine was lost, and now he is found!’

“At this time, the older son came from the fields and heard music at the house. ‘What’s going on?’ he asked one of the servants.

“Your brother is here,’ the servant said. ‘Your father is celebrating.’

“The older brother was angry! He refused to go to the feast. The father asked him to come inside. The older brother said, ‘I never disobeyed you! But you never threw a party for me.’

“‘Son,’ the father said, ‘everything I have is yours. We have to celebrate. Your brother was lost and is found.’”

Christ Connection: The religious leaders complained that Jesus welcomed sinners. Jesus told these parables to teach about God’s forgiveness. God sent Jesus so sinners can be forgiven. As Savior, Jesus seeks sinners. He paid the ultimate price – His own life – to save people from sin.

If you or your child have questions about what it looks like to follow Jesus in salvation or baptism, Pastor Sam would love to talk with you! Please feel free to contact him at ssiever@lenexabaptist.com.