

Unit 25 • Session 2

Three Parables

Bible Passage:

Luke 15

Story Point:

Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Key Passage:

Colossians 1:13-14

Big Picture Question:

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

Review Questions

What did the Pharisees and scribes complain about? (*Jesus' welcoming sinners, Luke 15:2*)

How did the three characters from the parables react when what they lost was found? (*by rejoicing and celebrating; Luke 15:6,9,32*)

Why was the older brother angry at the end of that parable? (*He felt his father was treating him unfairly, Luke 15:29-30*)

Do you ever feel like running away from God to live your own way? *Guide kids to think about the choices they make. Help them think through times when it may feel like obeying God is a burden, such as when a seeing popular movie or playing a popular video game dishonors Him. Encourage kids to speak openly about when it is hard to obey God.*

Do you ever feel like it's unfair for God to love people who disobey Him? *Help kids see that all people are sinners. We often try to rank our sin or compare it to other people's sin to justify why we chose to sin. Help kids understand that all sin de-*

serves death.

How should we react to a person becoming a believer in Jesus?

Direct kids to remember how God reacts to sinners' repenting.

Discuss the fact that God welcomes sinners and loves them.

Help them see that we should respond like God does, with joy and celebration, not with doubt or skepticism.

Activities

Coin collecting

Before the session, hide 10 plastic coins in the room. During the session, invite the kids to find the lost coins. You may choose to time them and see how quickly they are able to find all 10.

SAY • Great job finding those coins! Have any of you ever lost money? It can be very frustrating to misplace money. Today we will hear about a story Jesus told in which a woman searched her whole house to find just one missing coin out of ten. How would you feel if you found a lost coin?

Sheep toss

Place a plastic cup on the floor. Instruct the kids to line up about five feet from the cup. You may use tape to mark a line for kids to stand on when taking their turn. Give kids a cotton ball and allow them to take turns tossing their cotton ball to land in the cup. You may award points, such as one point for hitting the cup and three for landing the cotton ball inside the cup.

Say • Those cotton balls are soft and fluffy, almost like sheep. Today we will learn about a shepherd in a story Jesus told. He didn't toss his sheep away but went out in search of a single lost sheep even though he had 99 others that were not lost! Would you do the same to find a lost sheep?

Parable puppets

Provide craft sticks, cotton balls, fabric samples, plastic coins, yarn, chenille stems, glue or tape, markers, and other craft supplies. Help the kids make small stick puppets they can use to act out the parables.

For example, a cotton ball glued to the end of a stick could be a sheep. Two sticks in the shape of a cross with a face drawn on the “head” and a bit of cloth cut to look like a robe could be the lost son. Yarn used for hair could change the figure into the woman with the lost coin, or a chenille stem in the shape of a shepherd’s crook could mark the shepherd. Encourage kids to be creative. Provide small plastic bags for kids to take their puppets home.

Say • **Jesus came to seek and save the lost.** He told three different parables to help us understand God’s love for people who do not know Him. With these puppets, we can be a part of Jesus’ mission to save lost people! You can use these puppets to tell the parables Jesus told to people you meet.

When we live on mission by showing Jesus’ love and telling others about Him, we glorify God and help grow His kingdom. That is why we are here on earth, to glorify God and lovingly obey Him. He does not want anyone to remain in the kingdom of darkness. [See 2 Peter 3:9.]