

LESSON PLAN

LOST SHEEP! LOST COIN! LOST SON!

Luke 15

Lesson Memory Verse: Psalm 139:3 - “**You** compass my path and my lying down; and **are acquainted with all my ways.**” (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold.**)

Lesson Aim: To seek each lost child and bring him or her to Jesus Christ.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever lost anything that you liked very much? (Have the children share their experiences,) What did you do when you lost it? (Did you cry? Did look very long for it? Did you ask God to help you find it?) Did you find your lost item? What did you do when you found it? In our Bible lesson today, we are going to tell you three stories that Jesus told the Pharisees about God, what He lost and then found, and what He did when He found what He had lost. Listen carefully to find out what Jesus was telling the Pharisees.

HE (for Authority): God does not lose things in the same way that we lose them. We lose things because we misplace them, or someone steals them from us. But God never misplaces anything and no one can steal anything from God without His knowledge of it. He knows exactly where everything is. Our memory verse tells us that He knows everything about me and everything about you. Let us read it together. Hold up a large sheet on which you have the memory verse printed. (Or, you might find out how many can find the verse in their Bibles within thirty seconds, and then have them read it from their own Bibles.) The verse is Psalm 139:3.

Words and Phrases Briefly Explained:

- “You” – God
- “Compass my path” – God notices where I go while I am awake.
- “My lying down” – God knows when I lie down to sleep.
- “Are acquainted with all my ways” – God is aware of all that I do.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Since God does not lose things like we lose things, how does God lose things? Listen carefully to the three stories that Jesus told the Pharisees, who were a strict religious group of men that thought they were without sin. See if you can tell me what God lost and what He did when He found it,

I. The Lost Sheep – 15:3-7

The first story that Jesus told was about a shepherd that had one hundred sheep. At the end of a day in the wilderness, he discovered that one of his sheep was missing. It was lost and in great danger. What would he do? He would leave the 99 sheep in the wilderness and immediately go to the places where he had taken his sheep that day and look for his lost sheep. He would look and look and look until he found it. When he did find it, he would take that sheep and put it on his shoulders, rejoicing over the lost sheep that he had found. He would put it over his shoulders so the sheep would be close to him and he could tell it that everything would be all right. He would take it to his home and call his friends and neighbors to come and rejoice with him over the lost sheep that he had found.

Who is the Shepherd? (God, the Son, who is Jesus) Who is the lost sheep? (Each one of us) What does Jesus do when He finds (saves) one of us? (He rejoices)

WE: We are lost sheep. We are lost because we left God for the pleasures of sin. The only one that can find us and save us is Jesus, the Son of God. He is the only one who died for our sins. When we trust Him, He will rescue us, put us on His shoulders so we can be close to Him and someday He will take us to His home in Heaven. All the angels in Heaven rejoice with Him over one sinner that is saved.

II. The Lost Coin – 15:8-10

The second story that Jesus told was about a woman who had ten coins and lost one of them in her house. Each coin was worth what a worker could earn in one day. This coin was very valuable to the woman. In order to find the coin, she would have to light an oil lamp, because the houses in that day did not have many, if any, windows. Then she would diligently sweep the floor until she found the coin. When

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she found the coin, she was so joyful that she called her friends and neighbors together and said, "Rejoice with me for I have found the coin which I had lost."

Who is the woman? (It seems to be God, the Holy Spirit) Who is the lost coin? (The lost sinner) What does the Holy Spirit do when He finds a sinner that repents and receives Jesus as Savior? (He rejoices).

WE: We are lost in this world of sin, but the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgment (Jn 16:7-11). We are found (saved) when we repent of our sin and receive Jesus as our Savior. This causes great rejoicing.

III. The Lost Son – 15:11-24

The last story that Jesus told the Pharisees was about a father that had two sons. The youngest son did not want to live at home any longer, so he asked his father to give him his inheritance and he left his father's home. He lived a wicked life and soon all of his money was gone. A mighty famine arose in the land and he had to work for a farmer to take care of his pigs. He was so hungry that he wanted to eat the pigs' food. His troubles were a blessing, because this caused him to come to his senses; he realized that his father's hired servants had plenty of food while he was starving. So he decided to return to his father's house and tell his father that he had sinned against God and against him and was not worthy to be called his son. He would ask to be made one of his hired servants.

So he returned to his father, but while he was a long way off, his father saw his lost son, loved him, ran to him, threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. The son replied by saying, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven (God) and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be your son." But his father interrupted him and told his servants to put the best robe on him, a ring for his finger and shoes for his feet. Then he told his servants to prepare a feast so they could rejoice together, because his son that was dead was alive, and he that was lost was found. And everyone rejoiced with the father.

The older son had been in the field when all of this took place. When he heard what his father had done for his brother, he was very angry with his father for giving his sinful son such a joyful celebration when he returned home. He complained that he had served him and always obeyed his commands, but he was never given a feast to rejoice with his friends. The father said it was the right thing to do since his lost son was found.

Who is the father? (God, the Father) Who is the younger son? (A rebellious sinner) Who is the older son? (A Pharisee or a religious person that feels no need for repentance) (He confessed his sin and was willing to be a hired servant.) How did the son that stayed home show that his heart was not right with God? (He did not share the joy of God over the return of a lost sinner; he was angry with God; he had a bitter spirit; he depended on his good works to gain acceptance with God; he thought he was better than his repentant brother.)

WE: We all are lost sinners. Some appear to be rebellious and some appear to be religious, but all are lost in sin and need to repent. Troubles cause some to repent and blessings cause others to repent (Rom 2:4). Repentance is shown by a humble attitude. The rebellious son showed a humble attitude when he admitted his sin and was not worthy to be called a son. The older son showed a haughty spirit when he was angry with his father, was bitter that he had not been treated to a banquet and felt he was better than his brother. Those who repent of their sins and come to God with love and respect for Him will be saved. Such sinners will be taken to the cross where they can leave their sins and receive eternal life by the resurrection life of Jesus Christ.

BE (for Action): Jesus told three stories about lost things. What was lost in each of these stories? (A lost sheep; a lost coin; a lost son) Each story was about lost sinners and how they were found by God. We are like sheep that get lost and need to be found. We are like a coin that gets lost and needs to be found. We are like a lost son that needs to be found. This story may be the easiest for you to understand because it was about people. But the important thing to learn from these stories is the truth that we all are lost in sin and on our way to Hell. We must repent of everything that we know we are doing wrong. That means we want to turn away from those wrong deeds, thoughts and words by God's help. Then we must trust in Jesus to save us by His death on the cross for our sins and by His resurrection from the grave. He will share His life with you and when He does that, you will live forever. If you want Jesus to save you from being lost, please stay after class is dismissed and I will help you to be found by God.