

**Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2**  
**Notes on Lesson Two: Lost and Found**

## **Lesson Two: Lost and Found**

**Luke 15:3-32**

### **Central Message**

When we repent, it is God's great joy to welcome us back home. We will be his sons and daughters and He will be our Father. He will heal our broken relationships with others. (To repent is to be sorry for our sins, to turn away from them, and to turn to God.)

### **Life Application**

We do not like to think that we are lost; however, if we stay outside, we will never know His love. We will never know the joy of being "found" by the One who made us. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 ESV

We can only turn to God while we are alive. If we do not repent, we will live forever separated from God and from everything that is beautiful, loving, or good. The Bible calls this Hell. (The lesson does not talk about what happens if we do not repent, but you may find the right opportunity to discuss this.)

### **Community-Building Activity and Introduction<sup>1</sup>** ***Lost and Found***

**Preparation:** Write the instructions on a board, or print the worksheet or cover page from the supplementary materials. If you use the instruction strips, copy and cut enough strips for each person.

**Instructions:** Ask each pair to choose one of these sets of questions to discuss. These are simple conversation starters, but language learners appreciate the chance to get to know each other better. They also appreciate the practice before the more serious study begins. However, they are always optional.

1. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What did you do? Tell your story.
2. Have you ever lost something really important? How did you feel? What did you do to find it? Tell your story.

---

<sup>1</sup> The community-building activities and the introductions are often combined in the lesson notes because sometimes the introduction is first, and sometimes the activity is first.

## Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2

### Notes on Lesson Two: Lost and Found

**Teaching Notes:** The worksheet page includes a copy of Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” ESV You may want to display it, even though the verse is part of the following lesson. It is a central message for the gospel. Also, if the group enjoyed the memory work from the previous lesson, they may want to work on this verse.

The introduction in the workbook is central to the lesson. It gives the setting in which Jesus told the three parables that follow. It tells us why Jesus told the parables – to explain why he ate with sinners instead of trying to impress the leaders.

### Lesson Notes

#### Part One: The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin    Luke 15:3-10

##### Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

- 1.2. This is a skimming activity. To find out what was lost, they need to pay attention to the story, not just the words. However, the stories are short, so it is easy to do. If they need help, tell them that there are two paragraphs, one for each story, and that they will find out what was lost at the beginning of each paragraph.
3. The words are “go after” and “search carefully.” A footnote tells us that to search carefully is to “seek.” (They will need to the word “seek” by the end of the lesson.) All these words and phrases describe “to look very hard for something until it is found.”
4. These stories are easy and fun to act out.
5. Here is a better way to ask this question. (The words will be changed in future versions.) “The Pharisees had a complaint against Jesus. Look at the complaint in the introduction, and make it into a question. How does Jesus answer that question?”  
The question is “Why does Jesus eat with sinners?” Jesus’ answer is that he is searching and seeking the lost people just like the shepherd searched for the lost sheep.
6. God and the angels welcome sinners who repent. Also note that they know what is happening on earth, and that there is more rejoicing over a sinner who repents than over righteous people.

# Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2

## Notes on Lesson Two: Lost and Found

### Lesson Notes

### Part Two: The Lost Sons, Luke 15: 11-32

#### Preparation:

Note that the numbers below refer to the numbers in the workbook.

1. This is not a typical "LOOK OVER" activity. They are to predict the answer based on the first sentence. Make sure they understand the meaning of the sentence. If they already know the story, ask them what they expected the father to say or do.
2. Note that there is another "LOOK OVER" activity in the middle of the story. "Before you read, look for words that describe how the older brother feels about the party. Mark at least one word that tells you." (15:28 "The older brother became angry and refused to go in.")  
"Why do you think he feels this way?" They should answer this question based on their own experience. They will find out more about the older brother as they read.
3. This is an activity for pairs (or small groups), but read the instructions together before you begin. They should use all the observation/reporting questions to get the story. Who - what - when- where - what happened next?
4. "Look at the direct speech of each son (in single quotes)." You may need to remind them that Jesus is telling the story, so his words are in quotes "xxx," but when Jesus gives the son's words, those words are also in quotes. Quotes inside quotes are single marks, 'xxx.'  
This is a good activity to divide up so that each person only works on one section. You can have three groups: Luke 15:12, Luke 15:17-19 and 21, and Luke 15:29-30. They are looking for words of respect or disrespect. Note instructions for circling and underlining words. The younger son shows disrespect in Luke 15:12 and respect in Luke 15:17-19 and 21. The older brother shows disrespect in Luke 15:29-30. (Note that the older brother is the one who always obeys the rules, but in his heart, he is angry and does not feel respect for the Father.)
5. There is not one answer to this question. Ask them why they chose their verse.

If you run short of time, skip questions four and five above.

6. The relationships that were broken: father - younger son, father -older son, brother - brother.

## Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2

### Notes on Lesson Two: Lost and Found

7. In other words, why do you think the older son was angry? The son gives an explanation to his father, but we also want the group members to think about the situation. The son said that he had been working all those years and the father never even gave him a goat to celebrate with his friends. Notice, though, the words used in the text. He had been “slaving” and he never disobeyed “orders.” He had been looking at the situation with anger for a long time, it seems. Even if he has been obeying the father, his words show how he really felt about him.  
Note: Don't spend a lot of time on this question. You can summarize it and move on if you need to do so. The next two questions are important.

8. Luke 15:12 He divided his property. He allowed his son to make his own choices, even though it was a bad choice that hurt the father. He is extravagantly generous.

Luke 15:20b He was full of compassion. It seems he had been waiting and watching for his son. He welcomed him home even before the son could speak.

Luke 15: 22-24 He welcomed him back into the family, put his ring on him, and celebrated because his son “was dead and is now alive.”

Luke 15: 28 His father went looking for his older son. He pleaded with him to come in.

Luke 15: 31-32 He wanted the older son to understand that he is not losing anything; he is gaining back a brother. The father reassured the older son that his position in the family is secure, “My son,...You are always with me, and everything I have is yours.”

We often have the idea that if someone else gets something, we will lose something. There is only a limited amount of love or time or money in the world, so that your gain is my loss. This is not the way God works.

9. Look back over the characteristics of the Father in the stories. We learn that God the Father is generous, compassionate, and wise. He allows us to make choices, even bad ones, but he waits for us to return and welcomes us home as soon as we turn back to him. He does not require us to earn our way to heaven, but he comes looking for us. And He and the angels in heaven celebrate when a sinner repents.

LIVE You may want the group members to each choose one to answer. You may be surprised which one they choose to talk about.

2. Are they rebelling against God? Are they at the point of turning around? Do they obey all the rules but sometimes have a bad attitude or an angry heart?

## **Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2**

### **Notes on Lesson Two: Lost and Found**

**Be sure to read the “Consider This” section to the group.**

It is God's great joy to welcome us back home. We will be his sons and daughters and He will be our Father. He will heal our broken relationships with others. We do not like to think that we are lost; however, if we stay outside, we will never know His love. We will never know the joy of being “found” by the One who made us. “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Luke 19:10 ESV

## Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2

### Lesson Two: Lost and Found

## Lost and Found

**In the last lesson**, we found out that we are to love God and love our neighbor. A lawyer asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?"

To Jesus, our neighbor is anyone who needs us.

**In this lesson**, we will see Jesus loving his neighbors: not the religious leaders, but the people everyone calls the "sinners." When the religious leaders complain, Jesus tells them three stories.

The stories teach us about God's love.

## Community Time



## Lost and Found

Choose one to discuss:

1. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What did you do?

Tell your story.

2. Have you ever lost something really important? How did you feel? What did you do to find it? Tell your story.

# Luke's Ancient Biography of Jesus 2

## Lesson Two: Lost and Found

### Lost and Found

Choose one to discuss:

1. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What did you do? Tell your story.
2. Have you ever lost something really important? How did you feel? What did you do to find it? Tell your story.

### Lost and Found

Choose one to discuss:

1. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What did you do? Tell your story.
2. Have you ever lost something really important? How did you feel? What did you do to find it? Tell your story.

### Lost and Found

Choose one to discuss:

1. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What did you do? Tell your story.
2. Have you ever lost something really important? How did you feel? What did you do to find it? Tell your story.

### Lost and Found

Choose one to discuss:

1. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What did you do? Tell your story.
2. Have you ever lost something really important? How did you feel? What did you do to find it? Tell your story.

### Lost and Found

Choose one to discuss:

1. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What did you do? Tell your story.
2. Have you ever lost something really important? How did you feel? What did you do to find it? Tell your story.

### Lost and Found

Choose one to discuss:

1. Have you ever been lost? How did you feel? What did you do? Tell your story.
2. Have you ever lost something really important? How did you feel? What did you do to find it? Tell your story.

*For the*  
***Son of Man***  
*came to*  
***seek***  
*and to*  
***save***  
*what was*  
***lost.***

Luke 19:10