

KIDTOWN GUIDE

1st-5th Grades

DATE: 9/13/20

SCRIPTURE: Luke 13

LESSON: Three Parables

INTRO



Parents say to your kid(s) - Last week we learned about the Kingdom parable. This week we're learning about three more parables - or stories - that Jesus told about God's kingdom. They are all about looking for lost things! Have you lost anything lately? What'd you do next? Did you find it? If so, how did you feel when you found it?

What's Missing? - Kids love to learn in concrete ways. This activity is a simple object lesson to help your kids interact with the Bible story they're about to learn.

Before the lesson, collect 15 to 20 various small items and arrange them on a tray. Display the tray for kids. Encourage them to look at the objects for 30 seconds. Then cover the tray and remove one item. Uncover the tray for kids to examine. Challenge the kids to identify which item is missing.

Say - Was it easy or difficult to notice what was missing? What if the tray had a hundred items on it? Could you tell if one was missing? Today we are going to hear about a time Jesus told a story of a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. When one went missing, the shepherd noticed right away!

LESSON - THREE PARABLES



Watch the Gospel Project Bible video: [Three Parables](#)

Story Point #1: (Kids repeat!)

A shepherd celebrates when he finds his lost sheep. (Kids repeat!)

In Jesus' time, shepherds had an important job: keep their sheep together and safe. It's similar to if we lost our dog or cat. We would leave and drop whatever we are doing to look for our lost pet. If we couldn't find them, we would put up posters! And when we finally did find our pet, we'd be so happy. How many kisses and snuggles would you give your pet?! Probably, a million. Just like that, Jesus pursues and seeks out lost people that have turned away or forgotten God. When they come back to Him, He celebrates even more than we would celebrate when we found our lost pet!

Story Point #2: (Kids repeat!)

A woman celebrates when she finds her lost coin. (Kids repeat!)

Have you ever lost any money?! Did you put on your night vision goggles and pull out all the cushions in the couch to find it? I thought so! And when you found it, were you super pumped?! When 1 sinner turns away from sin and towards Jesus (that's repentance!) Jesus celebrates the same way! And now for the biggest of the three:

Story Point #3: (Kids repeat!)

A father celebrates when his lost son comes home. (Kids repeat!)

This parable is a little different than the others - we get to see both sides of the story. We learn about the son who left and came back and we learn about the son that stayed by his father's side and always did the right thing.

The younger brother made some really terrible, sinful, selfish choices. He insulted his father. He wasted all the money his dad gave him. BUT, when he finally came to his senses, and realized how sinful he'd been, he went back home to his father.



CONTINUED

How did the father respond?

Was he mad at his son?

No! Just like the woman who found her coin and the shepherd who found his sheep, the Father was so happy to have his lost son back home!

But that isn't how the older brother responds, is it? Remember, the older brother always did the right thing and didn't waste any money and stayed at home working the whole time. When he saw his father throwing a party for his little brother, he was upset. "That's not fair!" Through this parable, Jesus is showing the religious leaders that they are like the older brother. They tried to perfectly obey God's laws and didn't think that Jesus should be friends or teach people who weren't as "good" as them!

Christ Connection! (Kids repeat!)

Jesus celebrates when His lost kids come home! (kids repeat)

Jesus told these stories to teach us what God is like. God cares about people. He won't ignore or give up on the one lost person. He wants everyone to be a part of his family: whether we break the rules or try extra hard to always obey them. Jesus came to seek and save all of us who are lost. Sometimes we get lost in doing "bad" things.

Sometimes we get lost trying to do "good" things to make God love us. Either way, Jesus gave His life to save us from our sin and bring us into His forever family.



RESPONSE

Sing: [Colossians 1:13-14](#) (Key Passage Song)
[Good Good Father](#)

Pray: Dear Father, thank you for seeking out your lost kids, teach us how to celebrate with you when they are found. Amen.

Discuss:

- What stood out to you from this story? *Let kids answer. Non-spiritual answers are okay--we want them to interact with Scripture, not just regurgitate facts.*
- What does Jesus do when His lost kids come home? *He celebrates!*
- How was the younger son "lost" [Luke 15:12-13] *The younger son made foolish choices and ended up far away from home without any money - thinking about eating pig food because he was so hungry!*
- How does it make you feel that God comes looking for us? *Allow kids to share their feelings, Remind them that God created us so He knows us and sees us. He seeks after us because He loves us.*
- Does anyone have any questions? Was anything about this lesson confusing?
 - *Allow time for questions and if you don't know the answers, that's okay. Affirm their question and let them know that you don't know but will try to find out. If you get really stumped, feel free to email us at kidtown@midtowncolumbia.com.*



BONUS ACTIVITIES

Coloring Sheet - [Printable Coloring Sheet](#)

Parent Share - What would you do if you couldn't find your child in the grocery store? How would you feel when you found them?

Hide and Sheep - Play hide and seek with a fun sheep twist! Everyone who hides has to "baaa" like a sheep while the shepherd looks for them. When the shepherd finds each sheep. Have a mini dance party together celebrating that the sheep is found.