

PARABLES OF THE LOST COIN AND THE LOST SHEEP

BIG IDEA

God loves everyone so very much that if someone is lost,
He will go looking for them no matter what.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Gather up things that have been left lying around by the children and put them in a bag (This is your LOST PROPERTY bag)

Hide some chocolate gold coins (or ordinary coins) around the room or in the garden

Find an empty purse

NOTE tell everyone they must bring one thing to Faith Box Time that they consider really precious

Put coins and purse into the Faith Box before you start



INTRO

HAVE EVERYONE SHOW THEIR PRECIOUS THING TO THE OTHERS AND TELL WHY IT IS SO VALUABLE TO THEM.

Today we are going to talk about things that are really valuable and about how awful it can be if we lose them.

Take out an empty purse.... Tell the children that this purse was full of coins but it must have been open when you were walking around the room/garden and now you have lost them all.

Invite the children to search for the coins. Tell them how many there are and that you want to find them all. When they find them ask them to put them in the purse. Make sure you thank them enthusiastically. Now pass the purse around and let everyone take a chocolate coin to eat while you read.

*I have held many things in my hands, and
I have lost them all: but whatever I have
placed in God's hands, that I still possess."
-Martin Luther*

Does anyone remember what a parable is? Well today we've got another one and you are going to need your invisible 'Thought Spectacles' again to work out its special meaning. Jesus tells these parables as stories, so that it is easy for us to remember the important lesson in them.

In Jesus' day, when a girl was married, instead of getting a wedding ring she would be given a special chain with ten coins on it. She would wear it on her forehead and it was what she treasured most. (A bit like an engagement ring today!) Each of the coins was valuable, but the whole set had a particular value in her heart because it was such a special gift from her husband.

READ

PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

☞ Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbours and say, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents. ☞

Luke 15: 8-10

PLAY

SEARCH PARTY

Choose one child to be the 'searcher' and get him/her to leave the room.

Hide a coin somewhere in the room and then call in the 'searcher'. Their job is to search for the lost coin. The rest help them by giving clues of 'hot' when close and 'cold' when far away. Once found, they must jump up and say 'Hooray' and do some dance steps....Everyone else then jumps up and 'parties'!

Now the next person has a turn.

EXPLORE

In the story, we know the coin was very important to the woman because she kept on looking for it until she found it – and then she celebrated with all her friends.

On the day that Jesus told this story there were some men listening who were Pharisees. These were men who thought they were more important than everyone else - and that meant they were not very nice people at all. They were whispering about Jesus and how he shouldn't eat and talk with sinners.

Of course Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he told these two parables. The other parable is about a lost sheep.

He said, “Suppose a shepherd has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine other sheep and go to look for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is so excited he carries the sheep all the way home. Then he calls all his friends and neighbours and has a party to celebrate the sheep that was found.”

Luke 15:1-7

Now think about the story of the lost coin. What do you think these two parables mean?

BRING OUT YOUR BAG OF LOST PROPERTY

Talk about lost property boxes – what do the children know about them?

Have you ever lost something special?
How hard did you look for it? Why?
When is a thing lost? (When it is in the wrong place)

Share a time when you have been lost. How did it feel? What happened?

Sometimes we get lost from God and we don’t even realise we have wandered away. Other times we wander away on purpose because we are feeling cross or sad.

But, whatever the reason, God notices when we are wandering away from him.

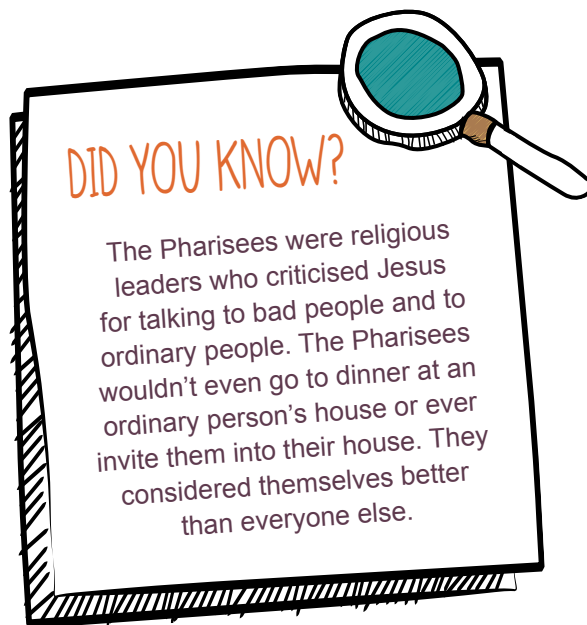
QUESTIONS

Does God think that people are only valuable when they are good?

Does God love people who make mistakes and sometimes do bad things?

Jesus explained it like this – “Just as there was a big party over the one lost sheep, there will be a big party in heaven over just one sinner who repents rather than over ninety-nine people who think they are perfect and who think they don’t need to repent.” When should we celebrate and be happy too? (when someone returns to God)

We know we are really important to God because he sends out a search party for us when we find ourselves in the wrong place – and has a party with the angels when we are found!



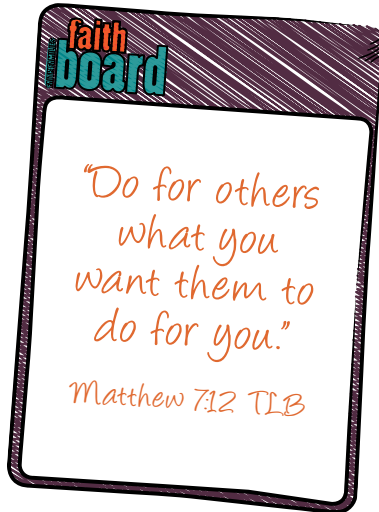
PRAY

Thank you Lord that you love us so much – you always come after us. Help me not to wander away but always stay safe under your care. Amen.

LIVE

Talk about who you could invite to church or to an after school club – perhaps there is a friend from school or a family in the neighbourhood. Or maybe you could tell them about something good that God has done in your life.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 *If you are going to the beach, take some small change and try burying it in a small area and let the children dig for it! See if they can retell you the parable of the lost coin as they dig.*

2 *Try making a rubbing of a coin by placing it under paper and gently rubbing it with a pencil or crayon.*

3 **LOST SHEEP GAME.** *Select one person to be the 'sheep'. The sheep must hide and then make a soft "baa" noise. The rest of the children try to find the lost sheep. The first to find the sheep becomes the sheep in the next game. To make it more difficult, you can blindfold those who are looking for the lost sheep.*