

sinner who returns to God than over ninety-nine others who haven't strayed away!" (Luke 15:3-7 The Living Bible).

Through this parable, Jesus shows us what the Father is like. He expressed how valuable people are to Him and to what lengths He would go to rescue them. First, we are compared to a lost sheep who wandered away and must be found. The poor animal was probably paralyzed with fear when it lost its way and didn't know how to get back to the Shepherd and the rest of the sheep. That's what sheep do when they are frightened, they go into shock and can't move. They collapse and can only cry for help. The Shepherd knows all the sheep by name and when he finds one is missing he searches and calls his name until he finds him. When he finds him, he lifts him up and puts him on his shoulders and carries him home, rejoicing. He didn't get mad at the little sheep for wandering off and scold him. No they are both relieved that he has been found. God's unconditional love is kind, and it is strong and able to save. That lost sheep was very important to the Shepherd, and he wanted him back with him where he could watch over him and protect him.

Then there is the story about the woman and a lost coin. "A woman has ten valuable silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and look in every corner of the house and sweep every nook and cranny until she finds it? And then won't she call in her friends and neighbors to rejoice with her? In the same way there is joy in the presence of the angels of God when one sinner repents" (Luke 15:8-10 The Living Bible).

The woman in the story lost a very precious coin in her house. Why is it so difficult to find? Because the houses had dirt floors and were poorly lighted. It would take a diligent, thorough search. Maybe even to the point of getting down on her hands and knees, feeling every inch for the small treasure. I wonder how long it took her to find it? She didn't quit. She continued until she found her lost coin. How long did God look for you before you were found?

Again, there was much rejoicing when she finally found it. She called her friends and neighbors who must've known of her loss because they all were rejoicing with her when it was recovered. Jesus compared this rejoicing to that of God when a sinner repents. The coin was worth finding, and we are worth being found by the Lord. He sees us as valuable and very precious.

Discipleship Questions

1. Read Romans 5:8. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Like the story of Hosea and Gomer, this verse states that God loved us even when we were unfaithful and untrue. God commendeth, that is, demonstrates His own love towards us, that that while we were yet s_____, Christ d____ f____ u____.
2. Read Luke 15:1. "Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him." Who drew near Jesus to hear Him? _____ and _____.
3. Read Luke 15:2. "And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them" The Pharisees and scribes (that is, the very religious people) did what?
4. Read Luke 15:2. "And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them." Why did the Pharisees and scribes grumble and complain?
5. Read 1 Timothy 1:15. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief." Christ Jesus came into the world to s_____ s_____.
6. Read Luke 15:3. "And he spake this parable unto them, saying." Instead of Jesus rebuking the religious leaders He told them a _____.
7. Read Luke 15:4. "What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?" What does a shepherd do when one of his sheep is lost?
8. Read Luke 15:5. "And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing." How does a shepherd bring a lost sheep home?
9. Read Luke 15:5-6. "And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. [6] And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost." How does a shepherd respond after finding his sheep and bringing it home?
10. Read Isaiah 53:6. "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Why did Jesus choose a story about a sheep to make His point? _____. What do we need to do?
11. Read Luke 15:7, 10. "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance. [10] Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." What happens in heaven when a sinner repents?
12. Read Luke 15:8. "Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find

it?" How do we know that this woman considered what she had lost to be valuable and precious?

13. Read Luke 15:8. "Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?" What action did this woman take to find her coin?
14. Read Luke 15:9. "And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost." What did this woman do when she found her coin?
15. Read Luke 15:9. "And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost." What did this woman say to her friends?
16. Red Luke 15:10. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." When is there joy?
17. Read Luke 15:10. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." There is joy when how many sinners repent?
18. Read Luke 15:10. "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Where is there joy?

Discipleship Answer Key

1. sinners, Christ died for us
2. Publicans, that is, tax collectors who were considered to be very sinful people and

sinner.

3. Murmured, that is, grumbled and complained.
4. Because Jesus welcomed sinful people to be around Him. Jesus said, "They that are whole need not a doctor, but they that are sick " (Matthew 9:12). Jesus came to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).
5. save sinners.
6. parable, that is, a story that would get his point or spiritual truth across.
7. He will go and look for the lost sheep until he finds him.
8. When he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders and carries it home.
9. He rejoices and calls others to rejoice with him.
10. Because we like sheep have all gone astray. What do we need to do? Turn or return to the One who loves us.
11. There is joy (rejoicing) in heaven when one turns from sin to Christ.
12. She looked diligently, that is, she would not give up until she found her coin.
13. She lit a candle (that is, turned on the light), swept the whole house, sought diligently, that is, she would not give up.
14. She rejoiced and called her friends to rejoice with her.
15. Rejoice with me, what was lost has been found.
16. When a sinner repents, turns or returns back to God.
17. Just one.
18. In heaven, in the presence of the angels of God.

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True Stories About Love

By Don & Wendy Krow
(Discipleship Lesson)

••••• Read the entire lesson and then answer the questions that follow.

I would like to tell you a true story about a man who one day fell deeply in love with a prostitute. After marriage and having several children this woman began to go back to her old ways again. As a result of her lifestyle she became destitute and lived on the streets. After much searching her husband finally found her and said, "You shall not be a prostitute, and shall not lie with another man, I will be only yours and you shall be only mine." He said this because he still loved her very much!

Did you know this man was named "Hosea" and his wife was "Gomer," and their story appears in the pages of the Bible? God had this story recorded to illustrate His great love for us even though we may have been uncaring and unconcerned about a relationship with Him. "Love" is one of the greatest themes of the Bible and it has caused God to reach out for us even when we were uncaring about Him (Romans 5:8).

Jesus told a story one day after the religious leaders complained to Him for welcoming sinful people to eat with Him. He said, "If you had a hundred sheep and one of them strayed away and was lost in the wilderness, wouldn't you leave the ninety-nine others to go and search for the lost one until you found it? And then you would joyfully carry it home on your shoulders. When you arrived you would call together your friends and neighbors to rejoice with you because your lost sheep was found. "Well, in the same way heaven will be happier over one lost