

LESSON

MEMORY VERSE: "In the same way, there is joy before the angels of God when one sinner changes his heart." Luke 15:10

Have you ever tried to put a puzzle together and found a piece is missing? Or tried to play a game of cards and found a card is missing from the deck? In order to build a puzzle or play a card game, it's important that all of the pieces are there isn't it? Our Bible lesson today talks about the importance of 'all'. Jesus shared a story with His listeners about a lost sheep and a lost coin. The lost sheep and the lost coin stories are parables – that is, stories that teach a lesson. The lesson that Jesus wanted us to learn from these parables is that we are all special and unique to God. God loves us no matter what and He wants us to love Him too.

BIBLE STORY

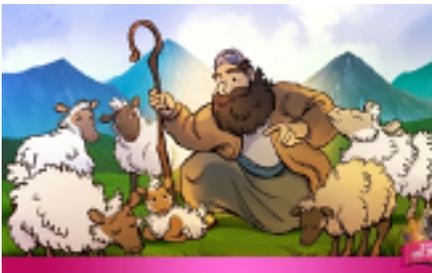
Read Luke 15:1-2



Many tax collectors and sinners had gathered to listen to Jesus teach. Everywhere He went people gathered to hear what He had to say. There were also some religious teachers, called Pharisees, in the crowd. The Pharisees were angry that Jesus was visiting with sinners and tax collectors and they began to grumble and complain. Jesus told two stories to help the people, including the Pharisees, understand how much God loves them.

Question – Is it bad to be friends with people who are different from you?

Read Luke 15:3-7



One sheep out of a hundred might not seem important to us. They are sheep. They aren't pets who live in the house with us. They are herd animals raised for their wool and for food. It wasn't uncommon to lose a sheep. There were predators like wolves and bears. Sometimes a sheep would get separated from the others and get stuck in a thicket or fall over a cliff. A good shepherd knows his sheep by sight. He knows them well enough that he not only knows when he is one sheep short, he knows exactly which sheep is lost. He leaves the others behind and goes back over all the ground he and the flock covered that day. He will not rest until he finds the lost sheep.

Question – Who is this story really about? Sheep or people?

It's easy to feel unimportant when you are 'just a kid'. Believe it or not, even adults feel that way sometimes. Jesus tells us in this story that none of us is just another face in the crowd. He knows us by name. He knows us by sight. Jesus would leave the 99 behind to come and find us and would be very upset with anyone who would try to lead us away from God.



When the shepherd found the lost sheep, what did he do? He told all of his friends and neighbors and they were happy with him! Jesus said the joy the shepherd felt was like the joy in heaven when a sinner repents from his sin and turns to Jesus. Jesus loves you so much that He laid down His life for you. He will always love you and wants you to love Him in return.

BIBLE STORY CONTINUED

Read Luke 15:8-10

How tragic it is to lose something very valuable, especially if you are poor! The woman Jesus was talking about desperately wanted to find the lost coin but she did not sit in a corner and complain about it. She got up and got busy! She lit a candle or a lantern. She got her broom and started sweeping every square inch of her little house, trying her best to find her coin.



She looked everywhere! She searched in every corner and under every rug! She pulled out furniture and checked the trash cans. This is how God is when one of His children is lost or has gone back into the world to live a sin-filled life. Every one of God's children is precious to Him. When the poor woman found her coin she was very happy! She told all her neighbors and friends that she had found it and asked them to be happy with her!

The Bible tells us that when one of God's children returns to Him, sorry for their sins and promising to live their lives to honor God, even the angels celebrate and are filled with joy!

Luke 15:10 "In the same way, there is joy before the angels of God when one sinner changes his heart."

How do we change our hearts? Perhaps you have already taken that step of trusting in and believing in Jesus. Until we make that decision, we are just like the sheep and the coin – lost.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

- **God Rules** – The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me. He is in charge of everything. (Genesis 1:1; Revelation 4:11, Colossians 1:16-17)
- **We Sinned** – We all choose to disobey God. The Bible calls this sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death (separation forever from God). (Romans 3:23; 6:23)
- **God Provided** – God sent Jesus, the perfect and only solution for our sin problem. Jesus came to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. We could never rescue ourselves and we could never earn it. Only Jesus saves us. (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- **Jesus Gives** – Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins and rose again. Because Jesus died for us, we can be welcomed into God's family forever and ever. This is the best gift! (Romans 5:8; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 3:18)
- **We Respond** – We can respond to this free gift from Jesus. We can admit to God that we are sinners, believe that Jesus is God's Son and that He died and rose again, and confess our faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

When you are ready to receive God's gift of forgiveness, pray and tell God that you know you have sinned and that you are sorry. Tell God that you believe Jesus died on the cross to forgive your sin, rose from the dead and is alive. Trust Jesus to be your Savior and Lord.

ACTIVITY AND COLORING PAGES

Activity and coloring pages are available online.

We would love to see pictures or video of you working on today's lesson. Please feel free to post them to the First Light Kids page on Facebook.