

1st – 5th GRADE

SEPT 13 – Unit 25.2

Three Parables

MEMORY VERSE:

“He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Colossians 1:13-14

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

Who are “the lost”? What does it mean to be lost? In Luke 15, Jesus told three parables to the crowd of tax collectors, sinners, Pharisees, and scribes. Jesus’ teaching brought gospel truth to the tax collectors and sinners—those whose unrighteousness separated them from God—and to the Pharisees and scribes—those whose relied on their own righteous efforts for salvation.

The first two parables are similar. In one, a man loses a sheep. He leaves his flock to find the missing sheep, and he rejoices when it is found. In the second, a woman loses a silver coin. The woman carefully searches until she finds it. Then she calls her neighbors and friends to celebrate with her. Heaven rejoices when even one sinner repents. Finally, Jesus told a parable about two sons. The younger son asked for his inheritance, wasted his money on immoral living, and decided to return to his father. Rather than rejecting his wayward son, the father embraced him. The older son, who had always been obedient to his father, reacted with anger.

As you read Luke 15, think about the crowd Jesus was speaking to. The focus is often placed on the younger son—the one with whom the tax collectors and sinners could identify—but Jesus also made a point about the older son. The older son was like the Pharisees and scribes, focused on his own morality and feeling entitled to his father’s favor.

Jesus taught what God is like. He seeks sinners who have wandered far from Him, and He seeks sinners who try to earn salvation by their good works. As you teach, help kids understand that being lost means not knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. God loves us, and He actively seeks to bring sinners to Himself.



ACTIVITY

KEY PASSAGE BALLOON CHALLENGE

WHAT YOU NEED:

2 balloons

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Have your family form a circle and read Colossians 1:13-14 aloud together.
2. Challenge everyone to tap the balloon, keeping it in the air as they say the key passage together.
3. If the balloon hits the floor, say the key passage from the beginning. |
4. If you complete the key passage without the balloon touching the floor, add a second balloon continuing to keep the balloon in the air as you say the verse together.
5. Invite family members who have memorized the key passage to recite it from memory.

DISCUSSION:

Because **Jesus came to seek and save the lost**, we don’t have to remain in darkness. When we trust in Him, He invites us into God’s kingdom and family forever.

BIBLE VIDEO:

Play the Bible Story Video that goes with this lesson!



DISTRIBUTE BIBLES AND HELP FAMILY MEMBERS FIND LUKE 15.

Discuss with family members:

- Ask how many total chapters are in Luke. (24)
- Ask how they can find Luke if they don't know where it is in their Bibles. (*Use the table of contents.*)
- Ask how chapters and verses within a book are marked. (*The large numbers mark chapters; the small mark verses in a chapter.*)

READ LUKE 15 ALOUD.

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TOGETHER:

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did the Pharisees and scribes complain about? (*Jesus' welcoming sinners, Luke 15:2*)
2. How did the three characters from the parables react when what they lost was found? (*by rejoicing and celebrating; Luke 15:6,9,32*)
3. Why was the older brother angry at the end of that parable? (*He felt his father was treating him unfairly, Luke 15:29-30*)
4. Do you ever feel like running away from God to live your own way? *Guide kids to think about the choices they make. Help them think through times when it may feel like obeying God is a burden, such as when a seeing popular movie or playing a popular video game dishonors Him. Encourage kids to speak openly about when it is hard to obey God.*
5. Do you ever feel like it's unfair for God to love people who disobey Him? *Help kids see that all people are sinners. We often try to rank our sin or compare it to other people's sin to justify why we chose to sin. Help kids understand that all sin deserves death.*

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. God loves when sinners turn from sin toward Jesus. We can rejoice in God's goodness to sinners—including ourselves—and celebrate when people come to faith. God's love is endless.

How should we react to a person becoming a believer in Jesus?

Direct kids to remember how God reacts to sinners' repenting. Discuss the fact that God welcomes sinners and loves them. Help them see that we should respond like God does, with joy and celebration, not with doubt or skepticism

PRAY as a family before you close your time together!