

DISCUSS

When confronted by the Pharisees, Jesus shared three parables about God's love for sinners. Let's take a look at each of these parables, starting with the parable of the good shepherd in Luke 15:3–7. **How would you describe the shepherd's actions? In what ways does he appear responsible or irresponsible?**

What do his actions reveal about his values?

Next, let's look at the parable of the lost coin in Luke 15:8–10. **What do you do when you have lost something of value? What do you think this woman is feeling as she looks for her lost coin?**

Finally, let's look at the father's actions in the parable of the prodigal son. **In verses 24 and 32, why does the father throw a celebration for his son?**

When the younger son left home, he damaged his family's finances by squandering his inheritance, openly rejected his father's love, and left home without any intention of returning. But the father never recounts his son's sins. Instead, he embraces his son and welcomes him home. **What does this teach you about God's love for you?**

Our forgiveness does not always look as perfect as God's forgiveness. It can be very difficult to fully forgive someone and welcome them back into our lives with open arms. **When someone wrongs you, what is your disposition towards that person? What makes it difficult for you to fully forgive someone? What does it take for you to welcome a person back into your life?**

This parable shows two ways God reveals his love for us: he has paid the ultimate cost for us, and he and all of heaven celebrate when a sinner turns to him. **What does it mean to you that God has rushed out to you in Jesus and is celebrating that you have returned home?**

Note: To learn more about the price of salvation, see the Go Deeper section at the end of this study.

David suggested that the conventional title for this parable may not be quite right. He defined "prodigal" as a person who lavishly spends their resources. And if anyone in this parable spends their resources lavishly, it is

