



## Literacy Check

- **Luke 15:1-7** - The Lost Sheep
- **Luke 15:8-10** - The Lost Coin
- **Luke 15:11-32** - The Lost Son
- **Luke 16:1-9** - The shrewd rascal.

## Let's Break the Ice

If you had to delete all but 3 apps from your smartphone, which ones would you keep?

## Introduction

It might seem like parties are for the birthday boy/girl, or the graduate, etc. But if that was true, why would anyone else want to go? Celebration is good for the invitees too...

## A Good Idea

Pay careful attention to what Jesus is trying to get his audience to understand through these parables.

## Things to Ponder

The parables of the Lost (coin, sheep, and son) have very rich and deep meanings. They also share a common theme: when something that was lost is found, it's time to celebrate. Have your group discuss what they found interesting in the selected texts.

Brian used the illustration of a cell phone on Sunday, but keys, wallets, etc. work equally well. Ask your group to tell a story about a time they had lost something and what it was like when it was found. What were some of the emotions while searching? What about when the object was located?

God, in His infinite love for us, "searches" for His lost children (us). How does it feel to know that God will celebrate finding the lost every time? Would you want to be invited to that party?

Encourage your group to think of someone they will invite in the coming holiday season to Branches (or church in general). Perhaps write the "guest list" in your prayer journal for later follow up.

## Wrapping Up

This is the last week of R&B. You are encouraged to begin and end each group session with prayer. It is a good idea to keep a journal or log of the prayer requests your group makes. This will help your group in future seasons to celebrate God's movements, to show our trust is not misplaced with Him and to remind us to continue to pray for the needs of your group and community.