

Thank you for joining us today!

Here at Valley Life, you're part of a family. We've made it easy for you to get connected with the Valley Life family through Connecting Events, Community Groups, Adult Classes, K.R.E.W, and Youth Group. These opportunities and many others are awesome ways to build great relationships and grow in faith. So, join us. We invite you to discover the adventure and celebrate your life in Jesus!

FOR OUR SERVICE TODAY:

- The **PRAYER ZONE** is located at the front SW corner of the sanctuary. If you need prayer or have any questions, please seek out a volunteer in that area after the service.
- Our **COMMUNICATION CARD** is a way for us to welcome our visitors, hear from our regular attenders with any change of address, phone, email, etc. Please visit our **Welcome Table** in the **Lobby**.

CHURCH BOARD				
Elders		Deacons		
*Carl Alberda VP	Q-T	208-340-2507	Micah Crawford-Secy	208-908-3290
*Brian Codol	Youth	714-299-2998	Troy Forbis	559-329-2835
*Steve McCandless	C-D	208-880-6592	Jim Jasper	208-921-1163
*Kevin Whipple	E-H	406-217-3567	Jon Wester - Chrm/Trea	208-999-7028
Brandon Torres	I-K	714-305-5093		
Jim Evenhouse	U-Z	208-468-7870		
Jason Martin	A-B	208-949-8014		
Nick Duncan	L-M	208-891-1833		
David Whitehead	N-P	208-801-3642		

If you need spiritual care, prayer, counsel or have concerns or questions please call your care elder (see above).

* **Current elders.** Previous elders have stepped up to help with our congregation care.

THOSE SERVING US...		
Service	Today 02/28	Next Week 03/07
Greeters	Matt & Sara O'Connor	Brad Cox Rachel Mitaros
Coffee Set-up	Sheri Partyka	Sharon Becton
Offering Counters	Jim Jasper Brad Cox	Jon Wester Bev Donahue
Sound	Jackie Cox	
Multi-Media	TJ O'Brien	
Announcements	Becky Folk	Jon Wester
Welcome Table	Rachel Mitaros	David Whitehead
Prayer Zone	Brandon & April	Brian & Shari
Toddler-Nursery	David Joseph	Rachel/Micah
Pre-KG	Sara O'Brien	Sara O'Brien
1-2nd	Tyson & Kelsey	Tyson & Kelsey
3-5th	Katie Pickens	Katie Pickens



**Welcome to our
Worship Celebration!**

CONNECTING with God.

GROWING in Christ.

SERVING others.

February 28, 2021-10:00 AM

**6325 N. Locust Grove Rd.
Meridian, Idaho, 83646
(208) 939-7557**

www.vlccidaho.org

CONNECTING @ VLCC

WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP CELEBRATION!

We're glad you're here **TODAY!**

If you are a guest with us today, please come over and visit our **Welcome Table**. We have a special gift for you!



SERMON SERIES- Quest for the Lost-TODAY
"The Two Lost Sons" Luke 15:11-32

WELCOME
TO
KREW STREET



K.R.E.W (Kids Radically Experiencing Worship) Toddlers-5th grade

The KREW	10:00 AM
DWELL	
Pre-school/KG	Room 14
1-2nd Grade	Room 13
3rd-5th Grade	Room 25
Nursery 0-4 years	Room 12
Nursing Moms	Room 11

PARENTS - Planning Center "check in" then take them with you to the Worship Center, they will be dismissed with their leaders after the Praise songs. Parents please pick up your children from their rooms **immediately** following the service!

YOUTH GROUP TONIGHT-6:30-8 PM. Middle school & High school students are you looking for a place to have fun, hang out with friends and experience a deeper relationship with Jesus? Come check us out tonight! **Invite a friend!** For more information contact Brian Codol (714-299-2998).



STAY CONNECTED @ VALLEY LIFE- Find out what is happening on Sunday and throughout the week. **DOWNLOAD** the church app, our communication card gives directions. Download the sermon, ESV bible, request prayer or find current events.



PRAYER ZONE - You are invited to have someone pray with you after the service for any need. Come to the **Prayer Zone** located at the front, left of the stage with your praises or concerns.



GROWING @ VLCC

VALLEY LIFE 101-NEXT SUNDAY- 11:30 am.

Connect with VLCC and meet some great friends, discover the VLCC vision, values, beliefs & sacraments. Take this opportunity to **GROW @ VLCC!**
 Meet with Pastor Vinnie.



HOLY COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY- Prepare your heart as you renew your commitments in following Jesus. Our Love offering will be for our **Benevolent Outreach**. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9



CONGREGATION CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Prayer for our **MISSION Partners, Jon & Charrise Mathew & family** (Church Plant, Compton Ca), **Billy Mogensen & family** (CRU-Boise State), and **Boise Rescue Mission**.

Prayer for our **NEW MISSION Partners, Acts 29** (A diverse global family of Church-planting churches), & **RUF** (Reformed University Fellowship @ Boise State).



Pray for Our **Military:**

- *Amber Martin (Jason's sister-in-law) Ft. Lewis
- *John Reber (Bernice Reber's son) Georgia



GENERAL FUND	Given	Budget
February 21	\$3,288	\$4,050
February 2021	\$26,215	\$16,200
Fiscal Year (Jan-Dec)	\$53,987	\$212,650

SERVING @ VLCC

HOSPITALITY MINISTRY- Help prepare **Coffee** for Sunday mornings or help at **The Welcome Table!** No experience needed just a helping hand! Contact Phyllis Crist for more details! (208-939-7557).



Welcome



Sunday February 28th, 2021

“The Two Lost Sons”

Luke 15:11-32

Good Morning!!

If this is your first time in church, or first time in a long time We believe two things about you today,

#1 You are not here by accident

#2 God desires to meet with you today -

Dismiss KREW!

Boise Rescue Mission College Trip - Video

All March long we will have a donation center set-up in the lobby in which you can drop off these gift cards

++SLIDE+++

Subway- \$240.00 12 @ \$20/ea

Domino's Pizza- \$120.00 6 @\$20/ea

Wendy's- \$120.00 6 @\$20/ea

Walmart- \$120.00 6 @\$20/ea

Albertsons- \$120.00 6 @\$20/ea

McDonalds- \$120.00 6 @\$20/ea

Series Conclusion: Quest for The Lost

Define:

Quest - A Long or difficult journey in search of something

For - On Behalf of / In search of

The Lost - the alienated from God by sin or self righteousness, the spiritually dead, those alienated from the church, (the hurt and wounded by the church)

Why use the term lost? - One way to describe our spiritual condition apart from the Gospel of Jesus. - It is also Jesus' word in Luke 19:10.

As a result of sin we became lost.

Lost as a description for our Spiritual state apart from Christ.

We are Separated and segregated from God.

BUT GOD....

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Theme Verse: Luke 19:10 (ESV) — 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

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MAIN IDEA: The Parable of the two lost sons is a revelation and an invitation.

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The parable is a revelation in that it reveals the heart of God for the lost and the two equal and opposite ways human beings express their lostness.

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The Parable is an invitation in that it invites its listeners to join Jesus in his mission to seek out and save the lost.

STAND. Read the Passage from the bible! Read it. Write it. Speak it. Share it.
Luke 15:11-32 PRAY.

Tim Keller - Disclaimer

Luke 15:1–3 (ESV) — 1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable:

Jesus is sitting and having a meal with the social and religious outcasts

Both these groups grumble at the site of Jesus sitting to dine with this "crowd"

Jesus responds by telling them a parable:

Parable: a simple story used to illustrate a big moral or spiritual truth.

The Greek, parabolē, literally meaning to 'put things side by side'.

Jesus is going to lay the posture and position of the pharisees and and scribes side by side with the heart of God.

By addressing the Pharisees and scribes in parables Jesus gives them indirect direction.

He doesn't openly criticize their hardness of heart or loveless attitude. Instead, He uses questions and story to open their eyes to see the heart of God.

Luke 15:11 (ESV) — 11 And he said, "There was a man who had two sons.

The title of the sermon is "The Two Lost Sons"

Intro & Background Description/Structure/Summation - One Story in Two Acts

The Parable will reveal what is lost in each son.

Lost Younger Brother - Rebellion

Luke 15:12-16 (ESV) — 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. 13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. 14 And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

What is the result of the younger brother's Lostness? Vs 12-16

-He loses his True identity, relationship with the father/request (vs. 12)

The son desires the Father's possessions but not his presence. The same sin committed in the Garden in Genesis 3 and the same sin we all commit when we give our time, attention and affections to things meant to be gifts from God that we try to replace God with.

++SLIDE++

"The younger brother is asking his father to tear his life apart¹" - Tim Keller

- He loses his Standing in community / abandoning his name (vs. 13)
- He loses his Inheritance/wasteful living (vs. 13)
- He loses Self Respect/ He longs to eat the pods of the Pigs (vs. 15-16)
- He loses his Freedom/ becomes a Hired slave (vs. 15)
- He loses his fair-weather Friends/No one gave him anything (vs. 16)
- He loses his Security/He was in need (vs. 14)

Luke 15:12-16 (ESV) — 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them.

How does the Younger Brother's Lostness express itself?

In a heart and lifestyle that desires Freedom to pursue his own goals and self discovery without tradition /custom / Family holding him back

Rebellion says " I'm the only one who can decide what is right and wrong for me. I'm going to live as I want to live and find happiness the way I want to find it."

1. Selfish

¹ "The Prodigal God" Tim Keller pg. 20

- Places his own desires above others and especially the father's
- Looks inward for satisfaction and contentment

2. Wasteful

- Lack of wisdom, care and cause
- Broken relationships, end of resources destruction of self made identity

3. Shameful

- Filled with Guilt and feelings of unworthy
- Inadequate and Withdrawn

++SLIDE++

Reveals Lostness:

"Lostness / Sin is not just breaking the rules it is putting yourself in the place of God as savior, Lord and Judge."

17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! 18 I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.' ' 20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. 23 And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

What is Restored by the Father? Vs. 17-24

- Identity sonship, ring, robe, shoes
- Life
- Family
- Community/Party

The Father's Response to younger brother

With Love

- divided his property (vs. 12)
- Could have dismissed him
- Allowed him to follow his sin
- He knows where it will take him

With Grace

1. Receives his son

- Saw him covered in mud, ragged, dirty (All his sin and wasteful life couldn't hide who he truly was to his father)
- Felt compassion (deepest part of him is moved)
- Ran to him pursued him, showed no concern for his respect and position
- Embraced and kissed him, smelly like pigs

2. Restores his son

- Best Robe - His own robe
- Family ring - symbol of identity, the family mark
- Shoes - wash the dust and dirt, made clean

3. Redeems his son

- Kills fatted calf - Meat is a big deal!
- Feast - reserved for special occasions
- Party - invites everyone!

Lost Elder Brother - Religion

Luke 15:25–32 (ESV) — 25 “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. 27 And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ 31 And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’

What is the result of the older brother’s Lostness? (vs. 25-28)

- Peace/Angry (vs. 28)
- Fellowship/Stayed outside (vs. 28)
- Joy is foreign to him (vs. 28)
- 1/3 wealth family 55% of total wealth (vs. 30)

How does the Older Brother’s Lostness express itself?

Believes in putting the standards of morality and community above self fulfillment.

Religion says- “I’m not going to do what I want to do but what tradition, community and morality tell me to do.

1. Anger

- Offended, isolated, full of pain and hurt (Perceived) / judgmental

2. Entitlement

- “I deserve it” on the constant look out for equity, fairness, always measuring what others have ill-content and unsatisfied, self justifying

Obeys God to get things

Obeys God to resemble him, love him, know him and delight in him

3. Jealousy

- Resentful, anxious, frustrated ungrateful

The Lost Elder brother feels he has the right to tell the father how the robes, rings, and livestock of the family should be deployed

He desires to control God through his obedience to gain leverage on God and put Him in a position where they think he owes them.

They are actually rebelling against his authority with their religion.

If you think God ought to bless you because you have worked hard to obey him and been a good example

Ultimately You have reduced Jesus.

He may be your helper, your example even your inspiration but he is not your savior. You are.

The Father (Purpose of Parable)-Response to older brother

Luke 15:28-32 (ESV) — 28 But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, His father came out and entreated him, 29 but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' 31 And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'

The Father-Response to Elder Brother

With Love

Seeks him out

- Comes out to where he is (respect, lost)
- Entreats him (implore, ask earnestly, beg)

With Grace

Reveals the Truth

- Son you are always with me/no need
- All that is mine is yours/satisfaction, fulfillment no need to work/earn his love
- Your brother lives and is found

The Father seeks to love you and show you grace in this place

There was no way the younger brother could return home to the family unless the older brother bore the cost himself.

The Father could not just forgive and reinstate the younger brother except at the expense of the Elder brother.

The Elder brother knows this and responds from this truth.

He is a stranger to the joy that is going on inside.

The Pharisees and scribes do not reflect the character of God, instead of longing for the repentance of sinners they grumble and complain about the sinners conversion.

What does the Elder brother do? Grumbles and complains about the younger brother's return.

Jesus has put the words of the Pharisees and scribes into the mouth of the Elder brother.

What seems to be missing from this parable that is found in the previous two questions of the Lost sheep and the lost coin?

What should he have done? GONE out and look for his Brother!

True Elder Brother - JESUS

Jesus travels not just to the next country but from heaven to Earth, Jesus paid not just a portion of wealth to redeem us but his precious blood

++SLIDE++

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Philippians 2:5–8, ESV

He laid aside the infinities and immensities of his being and at the cost of his life paid the debt of our sins purchasing the only place our hearts could rest in the Father’s house.

Jesus in his ministry reflects the character and purpose of God to welcome lost sinners with compassion.

++SLIDE++

What has our True Elder brother done?

1. Did not seek to grasp equality with God
2. Emptied himself
3. took the form of a servant
4. born in the likeness of Men (Incarnation)
5. Humbled himself through obedience to the cross

Even in his exultation Christ brings glory back to the father who exults him

Both brothers sought exultation through self, one through wild living, one through obedience

Both needed to repent of the sin beneath their sin, sin of seeking to become their own savior and lord

True exultation, joy, peace, fulfillment is found in Christ Alone.

++SLIDE++

Questions for Reflection:

Where am I more tempted to express my lostness in rebellion or religion?

Where am I seeking God’s possessions rather than His presence?

Where am I using my obedience to try and control God?

What am I willing to sacrifice for the sake of the Lost?

Who am I praying for and asking God to Rescue?

WORSHIP MEDITATION

Jesus was stripped naked so you could be clothed in the Father's best robe of righteousness.

Jesus was treated as the outcast so we could be brought into the family of God by Grace.

Jesus drank the cup of God's wrath so we might have the cup of the the Father's mercy.

dignity, belonging and joy were restored to us.

It is the beautifully mirror of the Father's love that reveals the sin in both the sons.

So too is it the beautiful love of God our Father through his son Jesus that reveals our sin.

The Rebel cries out I will find out who I am I will do what I want I will create my own identity I will judge what is true, and the Father cries out you are mine.

The religious cry out give me what's mine. Give me what I've earned. I will save myself through my efforts. And the Father cries out all that I have I give to you freely not out of merit.

Do not let your rebellion keep you from God, Jesus won't. Do not let your religion keep you from God, Jesus won't. God has sought you ought today. God knows you today. God's love and Grace are here for you today to forgive any and every sin. He has brought you here, to this moment and He invites you to know Him .

INVITE WORSHIP TEAM UP + Explain Chalkboards

First, you must believe God's Word when it says that you cannot help yourself spiritually. That You are a sinner and are among the imperfect lost social and religious misfits that Jesus came for.

Second, you must believe that Jesus is able to do what you cannot do. You cannot save yourself, but he can save you. That's he is the great physician come for the sick and suffering. That Jesus died for you to remove your sin. That He rose from the dead so that you might know that God is satisfied with what He has done on your behalf forever.

Finally, you must commit yourself to him. The Bible speaks of this in different ways, but in each case it is clear that it involves an act of our will. It says that we are to believe in Jesus, which means that we are to place ourselves in his hands.

++SLIDE++

"because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9, ESV

A historical map of the Balearic Islands, showing the islands of Majorca, Minorca, and Ibiza. The map is titled 'MARE INSULAE BALEARIDES' and 'INS. MINORCA'. It features a grid of latitude and longitude lines, a compass rose, and various geographical labels in Latin. The text 'QUEST FOR THE LOST' is overlaid on the map in a large, bold, serif font. 'QUEST FOR THE' is in yellow with a black drop shadow, and 'LOST' is in red with a black drop shadow. The map is set against a background of a textured, aged parchment or paper.

QUEST FOR THE LOST

"FOR THE SON OF MAN CAME TO
SEEK AND TO SAVE THE LOST."

LUKE 19:10, ESV

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

MAIN IDEA: THE PARABLE OF THE
TWO LOST SONS IS A REVELATION
AND AN INVITATION.

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

THE PARABLE AS A REVELATION:

IT REVEALS THE HEART OF GOD FOR THE LOST
AND THE TWO EQUAL AND OPPOSITE WAYS
HUMAN BEINGS EXPRESS THEIR LOSTNESS.

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

THE PARABLE IS AN INVITATION:

IT INVITES IS LISTENERS TO JOIN JESUS IN HIS
MISSION TO SEEK OUT AND SAVE THE LOST.

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

"THE YOUNGER BROTHER IS ASKING HIS FATHER
TO TEAR HIS LIFE APART"

- TIM KELLER

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

"LOSTNESS / SIN IS NOT JUST BREAKING THE RULES. IT IS PUTTING YOURSELF IN THE PLACE OF GOD AS SAVIOR, LORD AND JUDGE."

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

"HAVE THIS MIND AMONG YOURSELVES,
WHICH IS YOURS IN CHRIST JESUS, WHO,
THOUGH HE WAS IN THE FORM OF GOD,
DID NOT COUNT EQUALITY WITH GOD A
THING TO BE GRASPED, BUT EMPTIED
HIMSELF, BY TAKING THE FORM OF A
SERVANT..., PHILIPPIANS 2:5–8

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

...BEING BORN IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN.
AND BEING FOUND IN HUMAN FORM, HE
HUMBLED HIMSELF BY BECOMING
OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN
DEATH ON A CROSS. PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

WHAT HAS OUR TRUE ELDER BROTHER DONE?

DID NOT SEEK TO GRASP EQUALITY WITH GOD
EMPTIED HIMSELF

TOOK THE FORM OF A SERVANT

BORN IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN

HUMBLING HIMSELF THROUGH OBEDIENCE TO
THE CROSS

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

WHERE AM I MORE TEMPTED TO EXPRESS MY LOSTNESS IN REBELLION OR RELIGION?

WHERE AM I SEEKING GOD'S POSSESSIONS RATHER THAN HIS PRESENCE?

WHERE AM I USING MY OBEDIENCE TO TRY AND CONTROL GOD?

WHAT AM I WILLING TO SACRIFICE FOR THE SAKE OF THE LOST?

WHO AM I PRAYING FOR AND ASKING GOD TO RESCUE?

QUEST FOR THE
LOST

"BECAUSE, IF YOU CONFESS WITH
YOUR MOUTH THAT JESUS IS LORD
AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT
GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD,
YOU WILL BE SAVED.

ROMANS 10:9, ESV

QUEST FOR THE
LOST