



## LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Message Series:** Storyteller  
**Message Title:** The Lost Son  
**Speaker:** Lance Burch  
**Date:** January 28, 2018

### UP NEXT

- **Marriage Conference** (March 3) - Couples both married and engaged will benefit from practical sessions addressing marriage benefits like communication, forgiveness, purity, humility, and making sex mutually fulfilling. Join us for a day that will be a highlight for your marriage! Saturday, March 3rd. (8:00am - 4:00pm) \$55/couple (includes resources, snacks, and evening comedy show). Register at [reality.church/events](http://reality.church/events).
- **Comedy Night** (March 3) - At 7:00pm, the belly laughs begin with the comedy team of Barnes & Miner. They've written for/appeared on ESPN, HBO, NBC, FOX, Comedy Central, Jay Leno, Jack Black and more! (Free childcare during the comedy concert for children up to 5th grade). \$10/ticket - *\*If you are attending the Married With Benefits Marriage Conference, your tickets for this event are already included in your conference cost.* Register at [reality.church/events](http://reality.church/events).

### SERVE OPPORTUNITIES

- **Bethlehem House** (multiple dates) - Sign up to be a part of transforming the "hall way" of the Bethlehem House to a beautiful "home way". There are several dates and times available so don't miss out on your opportunity to serve. Find out more at [reality.church/serve](http://reality.church/serve)
- **Visiting Mentor Program** - Reality Church is teaming up with Release Ministries to start a Visiting Mentor Program at the Sarpy County Juvenile Justice Center down the road from us. Register at [reality.church/events](http://reality.church/events). Find out more at [reality.church/serve](http://reality.church/serve)

### MAIN IDEA

It's not losing something that hurts... It's realizing the loss.

### INTRODUCTION

- In a series of three parables in Luke 15, Jesus defends his involvement with the lost. Verses 3-10 consist of two parables: the lost sheep (vv. 3-7) and the lost coin (vv. 8-10). These two set up the more developed parable of the forgiving father (vv. 11-32).
- One thing you find in reading Luke's Gospel is that he consistently raises the issue of associating with sinners (5:29-32; 7:36-50; 19:1-10). All these texts drive toward Jesus' commission statement in 19:10.
- Jesus is speaking to a group of religious leaders (Pharisees). They had lost something and did not realize it. Jesus tells three stories to drive this point home to them.

### DISCUSSION

- Explain a time you lost something and it drove you crazy until you found it? Or even if you never found it.
- What's the difference between when you lose something and someone else loses something of yours?

- Is there anyone in your life that others would be surprised you hung out with?
- Have someone read ([Luke 15:1-7](#)) Is anything interesting to you about this parable? Why do you think Jesus was telling this story?
- Have someone read ([Luke 15:8-10](#))
- Notice that in both cases, the search takes work. In both cases what is searched for seems, on the surface, to be a modest object. In fact, the search becomes a priority. Yet in both cases, the recovery of what was lost leads to rejoicing with others.
- What do you think this imagery is saying about God's desire for us (his disciples) as it relates to the lost around us?
- In the Parable of the Lost Son (which Lance covered, Luke 15:11-32) the Father welcomes the son home and rewards him with a Robe, a Ring, a pair of Sandals, and a Fattened Calf. What do you think each of these signify?
- It sounds like Jesus would have us develop meaningful relationships with outsiders. However, do you ever feel like your relationships with outsiders will hurt your 'testimony' with insiders? If so, is this a valid reason to not form meaningful relationships with anyone?

## **APPLY IT** .....

- In our fast-moving and busy culture, developing such relationships can be hard. The best opportunities come from work, school contacts, and neighbors.
- Like the Lost Son, we should Come Home to the Father. What would this require of you this week?
- Like the Older Brother should have done, we should Celebrate the return of those who have been lost. How is this possible for you?