



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

8 JULY

LOST + FOUND

This study guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements.

MAIN TEXT: Luke 15:1-24

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins[a] and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The Parable of the Lost Son

11 Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. 13 "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. 17 "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' 20 So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. 21 "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate."

***B.L.E.S.S. means:** Begin with Prayer, Listen with care Eat together, Serve with love, Share Stories. For more info see westminsterchapel.org.uk/bless.

GETTING STARTED

After such a busy and exciting weekend with our ATOM team and Street Party, we're going to have a more reflective time at Life Group tonight! If you took part in any of the events over the weekend or were in the service, share your personal encouragement or highlight.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read the passage in Luke and focus in on God's heart for the lost. How do these parables communicate God's heart for the lost to be found?
2. How are you impacted by the longings God has to see people brought back into his family? How desperate are you to see those who've felt the crushing burden of religion, or been ruined by the circumstances of life, to come home?
3. How have you personally been getting on with the B.L.E.S.S.* initiative? How does this passage, and the stories we heard on Sunday, inspire you to keep going?

PRAYER AND PRAISE

As a church we had an amazing weekend of mission:

- Over 40 conversations with people outside of and around Chapel on Friday;
- Loads of connections made at Millbank Estate on Saturday;
- A great response to the Gospel on Sunday:
 - 5 people said they are 'Considering a Relationship with Jesus' for the first time.
 - 10 people said they 'Began a Relationship with Jesus'.

Thank you for serving, praying, sharing and inviting: you all played your part in introducing these lost people to Jesus!

Praise God for his goodness in rescuing lives. Stop and give thanks for all that happened, and pray that we will continue to see fruit.

Pray that Chapel will have a real culture of witnessing and sharing the gospel.

As Life Groups meet on Sunday after church to build relationships in their local areas, think about your group could be doing to be missional? Who could you invite along?

COMING UP

Summer of Fun | 1- 29 July
Life Group Gatherings | 15 July
Prayer Meeting | 18 July
Coffee Shop Kindess | 22 July
Chapel Picnic | 29 July