

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"LOST AND FOUND" | LUKE 15: 1-10 | PASTOR BRIAN BELL

WARM-UP QUESTION:

What is something that people lose often yet they get excited every time they find it?

"Lost Sheep" (Luke 15: 1-7)

The Pharisees were grumbling and criticizing Jesus for eating meals with people bad reputations. **What are things people criticize in others today that show misplaced values?**

Jesus tells a parable about a shepherd seeking a lost sheep and rejoicing when finding it. **If God is the Good Shepherd, what does this show about Him? What does that mean for people?**

"Lost Coin" (Luke 10: 8-10)

Jesus another story about a woman who loses a coin and rejoices when finding it and explains there is rejoicing in heaven over sinners who repent. **What are ways Christ followers can value and pursue the lost like God does?**

REFLECTION QUESTION:

Jesus shows through these stories that each of us have been pursued by God, showing He loves us and values us. That spiritual truth gives each of us a reason for joy and hope for people in our lives. **Have you been grumbling or rejoicing lately? Have you given up hope for others or do trust the Good Shepherd to continue His pursuit? Pray and ask God to renew your joy and to show you ways to share the Gospel with others around you.**

Lost and Found

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-6 Lar: C@R. Month Giv. Thanksgiving Eve. Holiday Hours. Women's Xmas
- B. Slide7 Gayle Yoder went to be with Jesus Yesterday. (Big walking stick/Moses) Prayed, *heal him here or heal him there*. And God decided on the later. [Sandy/67 yrs. son Gary, grandson Robert]
- C. Prayer: *Amazing grace, how sweet the sound. That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found. Was blind, but now I see. Lost & Found.*

II. Slide8 Intro: Lost and Found (watch O fall)

- A. Here we have one of the greatest chapters in the Bible.
- In Luke, ch.15 is the key chapter. *That God through Christ has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*
- B. Jesus now tells 1 parable in 3 movements: of a shepherd, a lady, and a father. Each lost something very valuable to them, & then rejoiced when they found it.
- Note this morning you are either lost, or found. *There's no middle ground*
- C. What have you lost & then found lately? (Kel, paperwork on Sully's birth? If found wouldn't have to microchip him, new law, unless 10 yrs old. Not going to receive the mark 666, bwahaha!)

III. Slide9a LOST SHEEP (1-7) READ

- A. (1,2) Sets the context in 2 groups of people. This is important, because it's what triggers Jesus telling the stories. And it helps us to interpret the stories.
- The tax collectors and sinners represent *the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son.*
 - The Pharisees and scribes represent *the older son in the 3rd story who grumbled.*

- a) Slide9b Griffith Thomas said about *this man receives sinners*, “*Here is the Gospel in a Grumble*”. [yep *He receives sinners*. He did - He does!]
- b) Grumbling is contrasted with joy. *Grumbling is not a spiritual gift, it's not a fruit of the spirit, it's actually a terrible sin*. Just look back to the history of Israel for an example (grumble/murmur).

B. This man (not Jesus?) receives (reg) sinners & eats with them (them? those guys?)

C. We notice the *moral influence* here, is *from Jesus to sinners*, not vice versa.

1. Jesus was able to do this with the strength of holiness and a heart of compassion. He has no sin, but is not isolated from sinners.

D. Ultimately, what the religious leaders feared was, that to *eat with sinners* was to *contract their defilement*, but the opposite was true. Jesus was afraid of the sinners contracting the Pharisees *Religiously Transmitted Disease* (actual book title).

E. Slide9c The CEB (Common English Bible) defines **repentance** this way ... in vs.7
In the same way, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes both heart and life than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to change their hearts and lives.

F. Slide10,11 **EZEKIEL 34:11-16 READ**

1. Never forget it is God that *seeks out the lost*. Just like He did w/Adam, when he was *utterly ruined in his sins*.
2. (16) *I will bind up the injured* - do you find yourself *broken/injured by trouble, affliction, assaults of the enemy, or by your own sin*.
 - a) God himself will attend to your wounds.
3. Broken - like the broken pitchers (judges) where the light shown out. In Ps.51 *those with a broken spirit, God will not despise*. The broken alabaster jar where the fragrant ointment was poured out. The broken bread where the hungry were fed. The broken body of Christ where the world was saved.

a) What's broken your life? *Your heart, your emotions your soul, something physically?* Let *the Great Physician* heal you.

4. I will strengthen the weak - weak from sickness, weak in faith?

5. Until he finds it - as we sing, "*There's no shadow you won't light up, no mountain you won't climb up, coming after me.*"

a) Rabbis knew *God would receive the penitent sinner*, but this is revolutionary, that God is a seeking God, a God who takes the initiative?

6. How far would He travel to find the loss? How about as far as heaven is the earth. How far did he travel for you? (I'd say about this far }—O—{)

G. Slide12a Ambrose *church father* *That sheep that has strayed in Adam is lifted on Christ*

1. Hey lil Sheep, can you stop striving and just rest *on His shoulders* today?

2. What *intimacy*, the shepherd would be able to **feel** *the sheep breathing*.

H. Slide12b The **ancient catacombs of Rome** are full of **carvings** of the Good Shepherd. We know from Tertullian that it was often designed upon **chalices**. We find it **painted in frescos** upon the roofs & walls of the sepulchral chambers; rudely scratched upon **gravestones**, or more carefully **sculptured on sarcophagi**; traced in gold upon **glass**, molded on **lamps**, engraved on **rings**, & represented on every type of Christian monument that has come down to us.¹

1. The Good Shepherd was selected because, *it expressed the whole sum and substance of Genuine Christianity*. It was selected because, *the early church* found such **great comfort** in that imagery.

I. He leaves the 99 - this first sounds like *bad stewardship*.

1. **But** we need to be careful not to press too hard on these parables for meaning. The main point is clear that **He** goes after the one lost.

2. There are 2 ways of looking at this: The 99 are in no danger, they are found (Leon Morris). **Or** the 99 are the *self-righteous* (BKC, Walvoord).

¹ Vincent, M. R. (2002). Word studies in the New Testament (1:383). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

J. We note, *when He finds the sheep* - He's not berating it, or grumbling about it, but instead *rejoicing over it*.

1. Slide12c Bernard Clairvaux, "*The tears of the repentant form the wine of angels.*"
2. There will be joy - God rejoices - heaven rejoices. It's like when you hear something funny, you instinctively turn to see if somebody's laughing along with you. It's contagious.

K. Remember, *Jesus is sitting at the table, looking for His lost sheep*.

IV. Slide13 LOST COIN (8-10)

A. *What woman* - Women just know how to find things better than men.

B. This missing coin was probably from her *headdress* (show 1 from Jordan).

1. One coin missing would be *an awkward gap* (Like a hole in your jacket).
2. One coin missing often represented *her Dowry*.

C. *God* values *you*, even in your *lost-ness*.

D. He saw them as lost coins *stamped with the image of God*, needing to get back in circulation.

1. And no matter how much the coin has been *defaced*, it still bears the image & superscription. [show - old coin]
2. Though *man* is *damaged by sin*, he still is *made in the image of God!*

E. Slide14 Whom the religious leaders considered *unsalvageable*, the *Savior of Sinners* considers *Priceless!*

F. There is joy *before the angels of God* (not *with* the angels) -it's to say, *the joy of God Himself*. The angels are in a sense *the neighbors* of God. A. Robertson

G. *Over one sinner who repents* - see the issue is *moral*, not *intellectual*.

H. God's loss was so great because of *sin* that he gave *the highest price* to *seek and save*.

I. Slide15a 3 Life Giving Lessons:

1. This teaches us about Repentance

- a) Many hear repentance as a bad/negative word, **but** please hear it more fully. Actually it's an invitation to life!
- b) In Acts 11, where there is a discussion about if salvation is for the *Gentiles*. Luke ends it in vs.18, *When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, Then to the Gentiles also God has granted **repentance that leads to life**.* See, repentance is a pathway to life.

2. Slide15b This teaches us about Evangelism

- a) **Diligence**: do you spend time with lost people? (would anyone accuse you of *being friends w/tax collectors and sinners*). Often, responsive hearers are found in surprising places.
- b) **We are good news people in a bad news world**. What is the mission of Jesus Christ? **Is it to make people simply more moral? To get them more environmentally sensitive? To get our candidate elected?** Jesus' mission is clear, *he came to seek and save the lost*. Let's keep this at the heart of things. It doesn't mean other things aren't important, **but** we need to make this *the center*.

3. Slide15c This teaches us about Joy

- a) Joy: Jesus' followers should be marked by joy. A joy that's winsome and attractive. That's characteristic of Jesus himself. His life was marked by joy.

J. *Welcome home lil sheep. Welcome home lil coin. Welcome home confused son.* Welcome home!

1. Maybe this is a time in your life where you are going through **the deepest grief**. **Where can you find Joy?** You can always find **joy** in this profound truth, ***you were once lost, but now you're found***.

- a) Because **He** diligently sought after **you**. *You're not in your sins you've been forgiven. You're not spiritually dead you're alive.* And very soon all sadness

will end. *We only have a foretaste of the joy of those who have been rescued.*

K. **Slide16a** The non-biblical Gospel of Thomas (3rd/4th cent ad. Saying of Jesus): Jesus said, “The Kingdom is like a shepherd who had a hundred sheep. One of them, the largest went astray. He left the ninety-nine and sought the one until he found it. After he had gone to this trouble, he said to the sheep, *“I love you more than the ninety-nine.”*²

1. The author has made the parable about **the worth of the sheep instead of the work of the shepherd**. This imagines that the sheep was sought *because it was so valuable*.
2. The point of salvation is **not that** God loves us because we are valuable. The point of salvation is that God is the greatest, and in His mercy, He has **chosen to give us worth** by 1st *making us in His image* and then by *loving us when we had nothing in us deserving salvation*.

L. **Slide16b** The therapeutic gospel leaves us thinking, *“Lord, thanks for recognizing my worth and loving me!”*

1. **The biblical gospel** leaves us on our knees in profound gratitude, crying, *“Thank you, God, that even though my heart is more like a defaced rock than a precious jewel, you saw fit to love me.”*

M. **The therapeutic gospel** says, *“I am valuable, and that’s why God loves me.”*

1. **The biblical gospel** says, *“I am valuable because God loves me!”*

N. **Slide17 End:** **Jesus** sees the lost as a **lost sheep** that had gone astray, and needed a shepherd to bring them home. **Or** like **lost coins**, stamped with the image of God, needing to get back into circulation again. **Next week** will read about the **lost son**, who wasted his inheritance and needed to *come home to the Father*.

1. Whether you’re the one who has **gone astray**, **or** is lost because of **carelessness**, **or** lost because of **your own willfulness**, **He welcomes each home!**

² TGC - Trevin Wax, Find Your Worth in the Gospel.

O. Keywords: sin, God, repentance.