

Luke 15

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."

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.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

³¹ "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

Prodigal Series – Leader Guide

We are all natural-born prodigals. We go about it in different ways, but in one way or another we all have a tendency to push away from God and try to make life work on our own terms. It never ends well. So why do we stubbornly resist God? Because we don't truly understand his heart. In Luke 15, Jesus delivers a mini-series of three parables, all with the same purpose: to give us a glimpse into the Father's heart. And what he reveals stretches us in life-altering ways, challenging our own prodigal tendencies and the way we treat the prodigals we love.

Nov 7 “The Father's Heart” (Luke 15:1-10)

Nov 14 “Two Kinds of Lost” (Luke 15:11-16, 25-32)

Nov 21 “Coming Home” (Luke 15:17-24)

Instructions for Leaders:

- All the materials will be found on the website (Chapel Small Groups page, and under “[Latest Message](#)”). Become familiar with where they are located, so you can help your group members find them.
- Encourage everyone to use the Manuscript Bible Study format during this 3-week series. If they are not familiar with how to do this, take the time to explain/demonstrate this during the first week. This is a practical way for people to engage with God's Word daily – regardless of what book/series they are studying!
- During your group time, read through the Scripture passage and go through the manuscript together. Share & discuss observations, understanding, and applications.
- You can choose to use the “go deeper” questions to supplement your discussion. These will be found on the website (small groups page & under “Latest Message”).

Manuscript Bible Study Method:

This is an effective way to study the Bible. It leads you to “dig deeper” into the Word of God and find many treasures that you might not have otherwise seen.

(1) Getting Started:

- Print out the double-spaced Scripture passage so that you can mark it up. Keep this in a folder so it’s easily accessible.
- You’ll need some colored pencils or pens, even highlighters to mark key words and phrases. You can use different symbols as well. Record what these mean on an index card.
- Always begin with PRAYER! Ask God to help you read with fresh eyes, and to reveal His truth.
- Read the passage **2-3 times** before you start marking up your printed Scripture passage.

(2) Understanding: Mark up your printed manuscript & record your answers in a notebook:

- **What** is the chapter about?
- **Who** are the main characters?
- **When** is this taking place?
- **Where** is it happening?
- **Why** is this being done or said?
- **How** did this happen?
- **Observe & mark any:**
 - Repeated words
 - Metaphors (look for “like” or “as”)
 - Contrasts (look for “yet” or “otherwise”)
 - Key words (such as “therefore,” “but,” “then,” “because,” etc.)

(3) Application: Our understanding and belief should lead us to being and doing. Consider your response to the following:

- What timeless truths do you find in this passage? How can you apply them personally?
- What does the passage mean? Make connections of the things you have highlighted.
- How does the meaning of this passage relate to your life?
- Based on this passage, is the Holy Spirit instructing you to make any changes?