

# All-Age Worship

Ridley Hall, Cambridge

## LESSON 6 | THE PARABLES OF THE LOST SHEEP, COIN AND SON

Bible Passage | Luke 15:1-32

APPROX TIME 45 MIN

### Overall Theme:

- God loves it when people return to Him and has a party when they do!
- How will we join in God's heart for people who are lost?

PREPARING

## STUDY THE PARABLE

### Read and Meditate on Luke 15:1-32

When your All-Age planning team gets together, begin by reading Luke 15:1-32 and discussing its meaning. What themes do you find there? How can those themes be best represented?

### Reflect on the Bible Passage

What is the main emphasis of the parables of the Sheep and the Coin?

What new themes are a part of the parable of the Lost Son?

What do these parables tell us about God's character?

Who do you identify with most in the Lost Son story- the older brother or younger brother?

### Pray

Take some time to pray about the parable and ask God to lead you in the best way to present it. Pray for those who will be at your all-age service.

PREPARING

## BEFORE THE SERVICE

### Things to Make and Prepare Beforehand

- You will need the help of about 5 people, plus musicians.
- Prepare the dramas and any necessary costumes and props.
- Make the laminated coin and sheep cards to hide- i.e. about 50 if each. See last two pages of this lesson. You will also need a stuffed animal sheep and a large 'coin' made out of paper plates.
- Prepare PowerPoint of song words.



# THE SERVICE PLAN

## 1. Welcome and Intro- outdoors, if possible

Tonight we are: Worshiping together, celebrating all the ways God has been at work over the year...Thinking about how God celebrates and parties and rejoices whenever anybody turns to him.

So as we think about celebrating I am going to give you 3 scenarios and I want you to show me how you would celebrate.

- 1) When England scores a goal in tomorrow nights football match
- 2) When you win a competition or do well in a test or exam
- 3) When you have lost something and have searched and searched and then eventually you find it

Well I think you would probably be very good at finding things

*"Interruption" from leaders of the next game...*

## 2. Opening Game- searching for sheep and coins

Leader A (with a shepherd's head covering): Are you all good at finding lost things? I have lost some sheep around here and I need help finding them all. I have a box here labeled 'sheep' and every time you find a sheep and bring it back here to my box I will get very excited and yell "Sheep!" to tell everyone that one of my sheep has been found.

Leader B (With a head scarf): I've lost something as well! I had some very special coins and have lost them somewhere around here. Can you help me look for them? Every time you bring one back here and put it in my box labelled 'Coins' I will do my special cheer and say, "Cha-ching!" so everyone will know one of my coins has been found.

Leader A: There is also one special sheep lost somewhere- my favourite sheep!

Leader B: There is also one special coin out there somewhere- you'll know it when you find it.

(If necessary, give everyone the boundaries of where to hunt)

The game proceeds as explained and when all the coins and sheep are found or a time limit runs out- perhaps 5 minutes.

## 3. Procession into the chapel

Leaders A and B gather everyone together again and give special recognition to the people that found the stuffed animal sheep and the big coin. They invite these two to lead the whole group into the sanctuary.

## 4. Song

Music team plays a song as everyone enters- We are Marching in the Light of God



## 5. Regroup

Leader helps everyone gather and find a seat- raise your hand if you found a sheep or coin, etc.

## 6. Reading- Luke 15:1-10

The parables of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin are read.

## 6. Songs

- I Will Wave my Hands
- I Will Give Thanks

## 7. Prayer

God our Father,

Thank you that we can come together after a busy day to pray and rejoice for all the many blessings that you have showered upon us. It is very easy for us to forget to say thank you for all these good things that you have given or shown us, so in our hearts and minds let us think of things or experiences that we have not yet said thank you for.

PAUSE

Like in the stories we have heard about when God is happy when people come back to him, we pray that we may take opportunities to share our faith with those people we come into contact with, help us to enable people to come back to you God.

[Pray for any specific needs of your community]

We now conclude this time of prayer with the Prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven...

## 10. Theme Song

Tell me a story, tell me a story  
A parable of the Kingdom of God  
Jesus has gathered the people together  
To show them the way of the Kingdom of God

Verse 1:

The Kingdom is like a farmer of wheat  
Who planted his wheat in a field  
And late one night an enemy came  
And secretly snuck in some weeds  
And the workers of the field  
Said to the farmer  
'Should we tear out the weeds from the wheat?'  
But the Farmer said, 'No,  
'Wait for the harvest.  
'Wait for the harvest to come'.

Verse 2:

The Kingdom is like ten Bridesmaids  
Who waited all day for the Groom  
And five had oil, and five had none  
For lamps that would lighten his way  
And when the shout came  
That the groom was coming  
The girls with the oil went inside  
But the ones without oil  
Had to go buy some  
And they were left standing outside



Verse 3:

Christ told a story about two men  
Who went to the temple to pray  
One was a Pharisee, tall and proud,  
The other a lowly Tax-collector  
And the Pharisee prayed,  
'Lord, I thank you  
I'm not like this man at my side'  
But the Tax-collector prayed,  
'God, have mercy'  
And he went away justified.

Verse 4:

A landowner planted a vineyard and  
he let it to tenants to tend it  
But they wouldn't share their harvest crop  
And beat and killed those sent to split it  
So the landowner said,  
'I'll send my son,  
They'll respect him just as they would me'  
But the wicked tenants said,  
'Come, let's kill him.  
The vineyard will be ours indeed!'

Verse 5:

A landowner planned a great party  
And sent a slave with invitations  
But people were busy and would not come  
And gave the slave weak explanations  
So the host said 'Go out  
'to the streets and lanes  
'Bring the poor and the blind and the lame  
from highways and byways  
compel them to come  
So my household will burst at the seams!'

Verse 6:

A shepherd had 100 sheep with him  
When one wandered off all alone.  
A woman had 10 special silver coins  
And lost one somewhere in her home.  
So they both started searching and did not stop  
Looking high, looking low all around.  
They called to their neighbours  
'Rejoice with me!  
"The one that was lost has been found!"

## 11. Lost Son drama

*A man wanders in in shabby clothes...*

Here piggies. Here piggy piggy piggies!

I'm starving - haven't eaten in days [to audience] Anyone got any food?

Come here you pigs! I wonder what this tastes like? If only I could be back at xxx Restaurant! Those were the days! Fast women, beautiful food - or was it beautiful women and fast food? Both probably!

It was amazing! I was finally treated with the respect I deserved. Not that it lasted! Friends are supposed to stick with you through thick and thin. Great bunch of friends they were - just wanted my money! I was convenient wasn't I! Where are they now, the no good rotters. So much for being friends!

Come on, pigs, eat up! What I would give for a decent meal! Ah what about Dad's beef and Yorkshire puds? I've eaten some good food over the last 6 months but nothing compares with dad's cooking. I wonder if he's still alive. Guess I should have waited 'til he popped off - but these opportunities only come along once in a lifetime. I'd tried to save for it but time was running out and getting my share of the inheritance early was a fair way of supplementing it wasn't it?

Well maybe it was a bit rude. Dad did look pretty pained to be fair. Oh well. Can't turn back the clock. I wonder what's going on on the farm. Probably harvesting at moment and then he'll throw his annual harvest party for all the workers. I can't bare to think about it. All that food and here I am eating pig swill [eats from the bucket].



Come to think about it Dad's workers are well fed all the time. Maybe I should... - nah don't be silly dad wouldn't have me back after what I've done. Or would he? He always seemed to need more help. Perhaps he'd take me back as a worker. Hummm

Well even if he says no it's got to be better than this. I know I'll go back and say sorry for sinning against him and God and beg him to take me as a servant. I promise it will be worth his while... see ya pigs. No hard feelings huh!

*Man runs out. A leader calls to the congregation, "Let's follow him!" and leads everyone outside again. When everyone is outside, another actor, as the Lost Son's Father, calls out from a window, (be mindful to wait for everyone to get outside before the Father speaks).*

Father: "That's My Son!" *He comes running down and running across the lawn to meet him. They embrace.* My Son, my son, you've come home! Quick, servant, bring him the best robe and go get the fatted calf. For this son of mine was lost and has been found. [He turns to the crowd] Rejoice with me, let's celebrate!

Older Brother: *Suddenly The Older Brother walks out from the crowd, Dad! Dad! What's going on? What are you doing? He ran off; he's wasted all your money. He wished you were dead! And now he just wanders back and you give him the best robe, a fatted calf and throw a party for him. It's not fair!*

Father: Son, you are always with me and everything I have is yours. But this brother of yours was lost, but now is found.

*The Older Brother walks away, grumpy and unconvinced.*

Father *to the crowd*: God rejoices when anyone returns to him, and we have the opportunity to be happy too and to help others find their way home. After our final song, please stay for dinner and share our feast for the son that was lost.

## 11. Closing Song- Grace for Dinner

Amazing Grace

Someone says a prayer of thanks for the service and the food.





