

Unit 25 • Session 2

Three Parables

Session Title: Three Parables

Bible Passage: Luke 15

Story Point: Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

Key Passage: Colossians 1:13-14

Big Picture Question: How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.

Younger Children

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Luke 15. Ask the kids how many total chapters are in Luke. (24) Ask the kids how they can find Luke if they don't know where it is in their Bibles. (*Use the table of contents.*) Then ask how chapters and verses within a book are marked. (*The large numbers mark chapters; the small mark verses in a chapter.*)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- What did the Pharisees and scribes complain about? (*Jesus' welcoming sinners, Luke 15:2*)
- How did the three characters from the parables react when what they lost was found? (*by rejoicing and celebrating; Luke 15:6,9,32*)
- Why was the older brother angry at the end of that parable? (*He felt his father was treating him unfairly, Luke 15:29-30*)
- Do you ever feel like running away from God to live your own way? *Guide kids to think about the choices they make. Help them think through times when it may feel like obeying God is a burden, such as when a seeing popular movie or playing a popular video game dishonors Him. Encourage kids to speak openly about when it is hard to obey God.*
- Do you ever feel like it's unfair for God to love people who disobey Him? *Help kids see that all people are sinners. We often try to rank our sin or compare it to other people's sin to justify why we chose to sin. Help kids understand that all sin deserves death.*
- How should we react to a person becoming a believer in Jesus? *Direct kids to remember how God reacts to sinners' repenting. Discuss the fact that God welcomes sinners and loves them. Help them see that we should respond like God does, with joy and celebration, not with doubt or skepticism.*

Say • **Jesus came to seek and save the lost.** God loves when sinners turn from sin toward Jesus. We can rejoice in God's goodness to sinners—including ourselves—and celebrate when people come to faith. God's love is endless.

Older Children

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Luke 15. Ask kids to identify the testament and Bible division the Book of Luke is in. (*New Testament, Gospels*) Challenge kids to name as many books of the New Testament, in order, as they can. Then choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 15:20.

- Say • By telling these stories, Jesus wanted to teach the religious leaders how they should react when someone turns from sin and trusts in Him. The religious leaders tried hard to be good, and they grumbled and complained when people who did not try hard to be good came to Jesus. But like the father reacted to his son's return, we should be full of joy when anyone comes into God's kingdom!
- Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:
 - How are we "lost" before we trust in Jesus? *Lead kids to recognize that being lost means not knowing Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Bible says that apart from Jesus, we are in darkness and are dead in sin. Jesus makes us alive and brings us into His kingdom. He shows us what is true about God and about ourselves.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Eph. 2:8-9.)
 - How does it make you feel that God came looking for you? *Allow kids to share their feelings. Remind kids that God created us, so He knows us and sees us. He seeks after us because He loves us.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 139:1-2.)
 - What might you say to someone who doesn't know Jesus? *Invite kids to share their ideas. Suggest that kids might share their testimonies, or stories of how they came to know and love Jesus.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 15:3-4.)