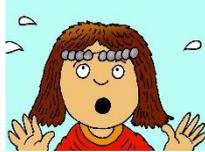


Kids at home with your family: 2nd May 2021

A little Recap of the Lost Parables



the lost sheep



the lost coin

the Lost Son



Jesus told these three parables in response to the accusations of the Jewish leaders. They had grumbled against him because he welcomed sinners and ate with tax collectors (Luke 5:30; 15:1-2). They could not understand why someone who claimed to be from God would associate with people who had clearly broken God's law. These parables answer the leaders' self-righteous questions with one great truth: Jesus welcomed sinners because God longs for them to be saved and rejoices when they turn back to him.

Jesus told three parables in reply to his critics in Luke 15. In each case something that was lost is found by the one to whom they belong and two groups of people respond:

1. **God in heaven** – in all three parables, God's reaction is rejoicing. In fact, he is more pleased when just one sinner repents than he is even with those who are already saved (weeks 1 and 2). This will always be true no matter what an individual has done in their life or how far they have turned away from him – it is a cause for extravagant celebration (week 3).
2. **People on earth** – again, in all three parables the natural response of those who love God should be to celebrate too (weeks 1 and 2). If we are unable to rejoice with God there is something wrong with our hearts. This was true of the Jewish leaders and it was true of the older son who thought of his father as a slave-driver and disowned his brother. Their grumbling against Jesus and absence of joy revealed their attitude towards God and his people (weeks 1, 2 and 3).

These parables are a source of great comfort as we see God's clear love for us and for those who are lost. However, they are also a warning and require us to examine our own hearts. As Christians our attitude towards outsiders should be the same as God's – we should long for all people to be saved; care enough to join with God in his work of seeking the lost; and rejoice with him when even one person repents and believes the good news.



A theme song you might want to listen to together:

Lost is found (Sovereign Grace Music) <https://youtu.be/Rcupj9n3EVY>

The Lost Son, Luke 15:1-3, 11-32



The Passage Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Many tax collectors and “sinners” came to listen to Jesus. ² The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to complain: “Look! This man welcomes sinners and even eats with them!”

³ Then Jesus told them this story:

¹¹ Then Jesus said, “A man had two sons. ¹² The younger son said to his father, ‘Give me my share of the property.’ So the father divided the property between his two sons. ¹³ Then the younger son gathered up all that was his and left. He traveled far away to another country. There he wasted his money in foolish living. ¹⁴ He spent everything that he had. Soon after that, the land became very dry, and there was no rain. There was not enough food to eat anywhere in the country. The son was hungry and needed money. ¹⁵ So he got a job with one of the citizens there. The man sent the son into the fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ The son was so hungry that he was willing to eat the food the pigs were eating. But no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ The son realized that he had been very foolish. He thought, ‘All of my father’s servants have plenty of food. But I am here, almost dying with hunger. ¹⁸ I will leave and return to my father. I’ll say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and against you. ¹⁹ I am not good enough to be called your son. But let me be like one of your servants.’ ²⁰ So the son left and went to his father.

“While the son was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. He felt sorry for his son. So the father ran to him, and hugged and kissed him. ²¹ The son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am not good enough to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Hurry! Bring the best clothes and put them on him. Also, put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get our fat calf and kill it. Then we can have a feast and celebrate! ²⁴ My son was dead, but now he is alive again! He was lost, but now he is found!’ So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “The older son was in the field. As he came closer to the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called to one of the servants and asked, ‘What does all this mean?’ ²⁷ The servant said, ‘Your brother has come back. Your father killed the fat calf to eat because your brother came home safely!’ ²⁸ The older son was angry and would not go in to the feast. So his father went out and begged him to come in. ²⁹ The son said to his father, ‘I have served you like a slave for many years! I have always obeyed your commands. But you never even killed a young goat for me to have a feast with my friends. ³⁰ But your other son has wasted all your money on prostitutes. Then he comes home, and you kill the fat calf for him!’ ³¹ The father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me. All that I have is yours. ³² We had to celebrate and be happy because your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found.’”

Pebbles and Rocks:



The Big Idea: Jesus told a parable about two sons – one who turned away from his father, but repented and one who stayed at home, but did not love his father or brother.



Aim: To see that God always lovingly welcomes sinners who repent into his kingdom, no matter how they have treated him.

Way in: can you think of a time that you were given something nice that you hadn't done anything to earn it?

The Parable

Jesus told a parable (that is, a story with a learning point) to a group of Pharisees who were upset that he was spending time with "Sinners":

Once upon a time there was a man who owned a big farm and had two sons. His youngest son did not want to work anymore. He wanted to travel and have fun and live for himself. So he asked his father for his share of the family money (something you usually only got after your father had died). The father was saddened by his sons request but gave him the money. The Son left home and at first had fun spending the money. He bought expensive clothes, ate fancy food, and went to lots of parties. But soon all the money was gone!

He had to get a job as a pig farmer- a job no decent Jew would dream of doing! Sometimes he was so hungry he even wanted to eat the pig food! EWW!

He wanted to go back home so desperately, but he knew that the way he had treated his father was not how a son should behave. He didn't deserve to be called his son anymore! So he decided to return home but see if his father would let him work as a servant on the farm.

When the Father saw his son in the distance he ran to him and threw his arms around him in a huge bear hug!

"I'm sorry for the way I treated you Father..." the son began, but before he had even finished the Father told his servants to bring a beautiful robe for his son to wear and to put on a huge party to celebrate his return!

How amazing is that?! The son had done such a terrible thing and treated his father so badly- as if he wished him dead! And yet the Father's love for him was so great that all of that was forgiven and only joy and love remained! "My son was lost" the father exclaimed at the party "but now he is found!" Let's celebrate!"

Sadly though, this isn't the end of the story. The Father had two sons, and the eldest son, when he heard about his brother's return wasn't happy to hear that his brother was home and no longer lost. No, he was angry and upset! Why? Because his father was throwing a big lovely party for his *awful* brother who had been bad! instead of for him! He had been *good* the whole time and worked hard on the farm and always done what his father asked of him. HE deserved a party, not his brother! HE deserved a nice robe, and a yummy feast and lots of good things! It didn't matter to him that all this time he had been able to spend time with his father and share in all that his father owned. He was so angry that he refused to come into the house that evening, and so his father went out to him. "my son" the Father said, "everything I own I have shared with you, but today is a great day- We had to celebrate and be happy because your brother was dead, but now he is alive. He was lost, but now he is found".

Questions:

1. Why was the father sad at the beginning of the parable?
2. Why was the father happy at the end of the parable?
3. How much do you think the father loved his two sons?
4. How is God like the Father in this parable?

Points to draw out: God our Father is so loving! He loves us to return to him no matter how far we have run away or how bad we have been. Just like the Father in this story, he has such joy over one person becoming a Christian that the whole of heaven rejoices!

Prayer

Thank you Father God for loving the lost! Thank you that you are so happy when one person becomes a Christian that all of heaven celebrates! Help me to be really happy for lost people who are found too. Amen

Activities:

- TnT colouring and folding activity
- TnT paper cup craft
- Dice roll game (below)
- Colouring sheets (below)

*Contact helen.hawley@bramcote.church for the TnT activity sheets if you are accessing these resources from the website. *

Bounders and Rip Rap:



The Big Idea: Jesus told a parable about two sons – one who turned away from his father, but repented and one who stayed at home, but did not love his father or brother.



Aim: To see that God always lovingly welcomes sinners who repent into his kingdom, no matter how they have treated him.

Way in: Have you ever gotten so excited about a gift you've received that you forgot to say thank you, or acknowledge the person who gave it to you? How do you think that would have felt for them?

Read the passage.

The two brothers treat their father the same in this parable, it just looks different because one seems to behave badly and the other seems to have been good. But the shock of the parable is that deep down, they both see their father as a means to inheritance rather than appreciating him for who he is- their father. At the beginning of the parable they both had the most wonderful thing- they had a relationship with their father and they got to enjoy everything that he owned *with* him! The youngest son left because he just wanted money, and the older son stayed but was only really interested in the money too (hence why he was upset that it was spent on a party for his brother). Jesus told this parable to show us that we can't treat God like that! He is our loving Father and the thing he cares most about isn't how good we are, but whether we love him!

Questions to think about:

- What can we learn about God from this parable?
- In what ways can we be like the younger son?
- In what ways can we also be like the older son?
- Who are you most like in this story: the younger son before he repented; the younger son after he had come home; or the older son who stayed at home, but refused to go into the party? How does this parable challenge you? How is it an encouragement?

Use the TnT work sheets to help you explore this passage further

Prayer:

Think about the two sons in the story. Which are you most like – the younger rebel who needed to return or the older one who always did what was right, but never really loved his father? What might you want to say to God in response to this parable? (perhaps takes some time with God now to talk to him about how you are challenged by this parable, or write him a letter!)

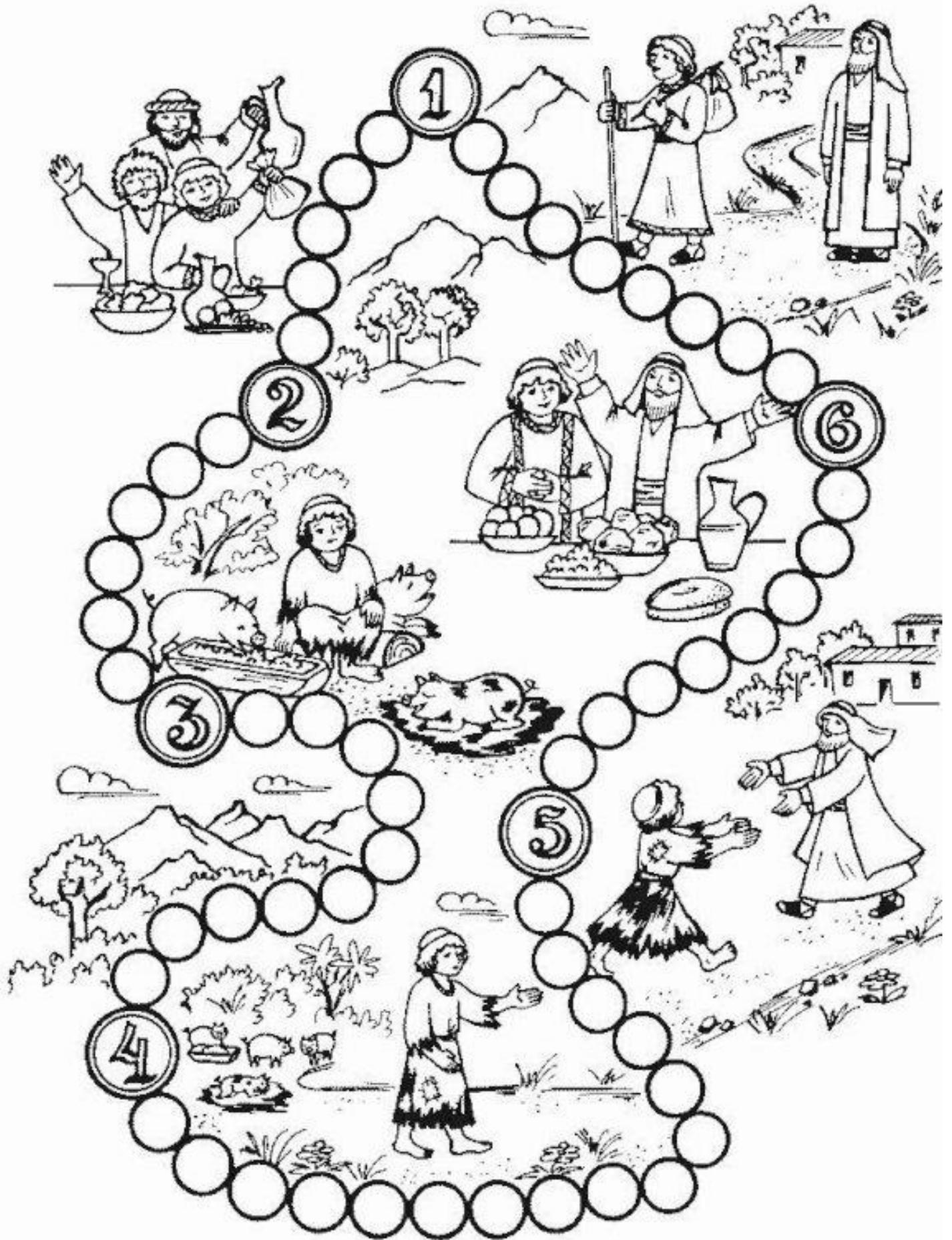
"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent." **Luke 15:7 [NIV]**

Thank you Father for loving us so much that you rejoice when we come to you, no matter what we have done or how bad we have been. Please help me to turn to you and ask Jesus to be the king of my life, and help me to pray for people that I know who are still lost. Help me to want them to come to know you. Thank you that all of heaven celebrates every time a lost sinner is saved. Amen

Activities

- TnT worksheets (C) Boulders, (D) RipRap
- Dice roll game (below)
- Hidden hearts activity
- Crossword
- Word search

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dice roll game.

Take it in turns to roll and move around the board. If you land on a number you can get another go. Whenever you pass a number you must say what is happening in that part of the parable. You can also colour in the board before you play!





The Prodigal Son