

**C+G**  
**Education**

**RCL**

# LIVING THE WORD

**Cross+Generational  
Education  
Years C & A**



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## **Leader's Guide**

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### **Fall Quarter**

September 11 to November 20, 2022

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Sunday, September 11, 2022  
14th Sunday after Pentecost  
Year C

# Parables of the Lost

Gospel Reading: Luke 15:1-10

## First Reading:

Exodus 32:7-14

## Second Reading:

1 Timothy 1:12-17

## Key Verse:

“And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying,  
“This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

– Luke 15:2

## The Point:

God seeks after us even when we feel lost.

## Liturgical Color:

Green



# Activities & Supplies

## Into the Word

### Find the Coins

Search for lost coins.

10 min.

- Groupings Guide
- Materials for chosen cross+generational grouping
- Coins

## Seasons of the Word

### Pentecost Growth

Share stories of growth.

10 min.

- None

## Learning the Word

### Jesus Searches

Tell the story with objects.

15 min.

- Bibles
- Cotton balls
- Coins

## The Word in the World

### Seek the Missing

Invite others to church.

10 min.

- Cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- Optional: Internet-connected devices



## Beyond the Gospel

<b>All Are Welcome</b> Recognize our own sin.	<b>10 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bible</li><li>• Optional: altar area, candles, music player</li></ul>
<b>Additional Activities</b>		
<b>Little Lost Lamb</b> Play a game of searching.	<b>10 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>
<b>Lost Today</b> Update one of the parables.	<b>20 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bibles</li><li>• Optional: video recording devices</li><li>• Optional: costumes, props</li></ul>
<b>I Am a Sheep</b> Make a craft with self-images.	<b>15 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Activity Sheet A</li><li>• Crayons or markers</li><li>• Glue sticks</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Digital cameras and printer</li></ul>
<b>Sending</b>		
	<b>5 min.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Word @ Home take-home sheet</li></ul>





Cross+Generational Ministry has at its core the concept that faith is formed through meaningful relationships. When we connect with people of a different generation, we are able to learn from them and share our own experiences, no matter what age we are. We find our place in God’s story best by exploring that story as community.

Effective cross+generational experiences are:

- *Experiential*
- *Interactive*
- *Engaging*
- *Story-centered*
- *Home-based*
- *Equalizing*

all of which promote an **encounter with God**. All of the activities included in this leader guide are intended to engage these principles, through intentional cross+generational interaction and active, creative activities that bring the Bible story to life in our lives.

We pass on the faith through every action, experience, or relationship that nurtures a transformative relationship of trust with God and shapes the way we see and interact with God’s world. When we do this in meaningful, intergenerational relationships, our faith is enriched from the diversity of the experiences we share with each other. Our communities are strengthened, and we have confidence in our sense of belonging to God and with each other.



# Background for Leaders

We begin our year together with two parables. In these stories, people have lost things that may seem insignificant, but the owner goes to great lengths to seek and find what is missing.

**Gospel Summary:** Luke 15:1-10

## **Parables of the Lost**

In response to criticism from the Pharisees and scribes for associating with “undesirables,” Jesus tells two parables: the lost sheep and the lost coin. They are parallel stories: one out of many was lost, the person spent a lot of effort finding the lost thing, and the owner rejoiced when the item was found.

**First Reading Summary:** Exodus 32:7-14

Even after being rescued from Egyptian slavery with dramatic miracles, the Israelites created an idol out of gold when Moses was up on Sinai with God for an extremely long period of time. God got angry, but Moses talked God out of killing the Israelites by reminding God of the promises of salvation that God made to the people throughout the ages.

**Second Reading Summary:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The letter writer is rejoicing that God gave him mercy and forgiveness even though he was a sinner. The author lays out his long list of sins and shortcomings so that others will learn through the salvation and forgiveness that he has received.

## **The Point:**

### **God seeks after us even when we feel lost.**

There are many times in our lives when we feel lost and alone, separated from God and our relationship with God. We may try to find our own way back but discover that we are unable to do so. It seems that we are the only one who has strayed into this dark and frightening place. We feel lost, and do not know which way to turn. It is during these dark, lost moments that God reaches out to us and finds us, returning us to God’s embrace and the fellowship of God’s people.

## **Festivals & Seasons: Green**

The time between Pentecost Sunday and the beginning of Advent is the longest season of the church year. In most Protestant churches, this is called the season after Pentecost and the Sundays are designated by the number of Sundays after Pentecost Sunday. The liturgical color is green and is often connected with the theme of growth. Our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church call this season Ordinary Time—not “ordinary” as in “not special,” but related to the ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.). However, this “season”—along with its partner between Epiphany Sunday and Ash Wednesday—is mostly noted in that it is not one of the great seasons (Christmas, Easter) or the preparation times for those (Advent, Lent). It is indeed “normal.”

## **Prayer of Preparation:**

Jesus, today we hear your stories of returning home. Let this season be a time for us to return to a deep relationship with you and to fellowship with one another. Teach us, Jesus, through your word. Amen.

# Lesson Plan

## Into the Word

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### Find the Coins

10 min.

Search for lost coins.

#### *Supplies:*

- Groupings Guide
- Materials for chosen cross+generational grouping
- Coins

#### *Preparation:*

1. Determine how you would like to group participants at their tables (in a cross+generational grouping), using the Groupings Guide.
2. Prepare the materials indicated in the Guide.
3. Hide coins around the room based on the number of participants that you expect. Be sure you know how many coins are hidden.

#### *Instructions:*

1. Welcome the class and instruct them to group themselves cross+generationally according to the method you have selected from the Groupings Guide.
2. **If someone is sitting alone, please introduce yourself, and invite them to join you. Young children who are not comfortable leaving their families should sit at a table with someone in their family.**
3. **Today we are going to hear two stories about lost things. I seem to have lost some things, too. I have lost \_\_\_\_\_ (number) coins somewhere in this room! I could sure use some help finding them.**
4. Either invite everyone to search or ask for volunteers until all the coins are found.





5. Thank you so much for your help! I was very worried when I realized that all those coins were lost, but I feel so much better now that they have been found. Soon, we will hear stories about some other people who lost things, what they did to find them, and how they celebrated when they did.



# Seasons of the Word

## Pentecost Growth

10 min.

Share stories of growth.

### *Supplies:*

- None

### *Instructions:*

1. **We are in the church season that is after Pentecost. This is the longest season of the church year, and it started when we ended our time together last spring. Who can tell me what happened at Pentecost?** *[The Holy Spirit descended on the believers, tongues of fire appeared and everyone heard the disciples speaking in their own language, barriers were broken down, it is sometimes called the birthday of the church.]*
2. **The time following that exciting day of Pentecost is a time of growth in our faith. It is a time for us to learn more about following Jesus, and to learn to be the church together. Because some of us may not have seen each other for a while, we might notice significant growth in the people around us.**
3. **In your small groups, let's take a moment to talk about the things that have grown in our lives over the summer. It might be our children, our grass, our faith, or even our debt. Share one thing that has grown in your life over the summer.**
4. Allow participants time to share in their small groups.
5. **As we continue in the season after Pentecost, which goes until the season of Advent, we will talk more about growth and about our faith.**



# Learning the Word

## Jesus Searches

15 min.

Tell the story with objects.

### *Supplies:*

- Bibles
- Cotton balls
- Coins

### *Preparation:*

1. If possible, provide 100 cotton balls for each small group. If that is not an option, give them enough so that it is clear the majority of “sheep” who are left behind in this parable is far greater than the one who is lost.
2. Put a pile of cotton balls in the center of each table.
3. Provide one coin for each small group or ask for one from a participant in each group.

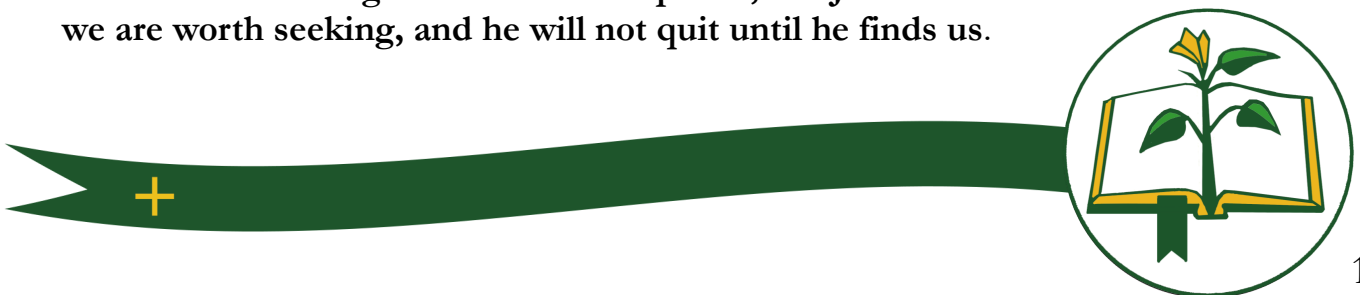
### *Instructions:*

1. Today we will hear two parables that are found in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 15. This is sometimes called the Lost Chapter, because the three parables that Jesus tells here are about lost things: the lost coin, the lost sheep, and the lost son. Today we will hear about the lost coin and the lost sheep.
2. Remember, parables are stories that teach a lesson, so let’s see what lessons these stories are trying to teach us today. We will start with the Parable of the Lost Sheep.
3. In the middle of your table is a pile of cotton balls. These are our sheep. Listen as I read this story and move your cotton balls to help act out the story at your table.
4. Here is how it begins. Read verses one and two. What were the Pharisees concerned about? *[That Jesus was eating with and hanging out with sinners.]*
5. Here come the sheep. Use your cotton balls to illustrate the story as I read it. Read



Luke 15:3-7.

6. **What did you notice about your cotton balls as I read this story?** *[There were a lot that were left behind when the shepherd left to search for the one.]*
7. **Hang onto that story for a minute while we listen to the next one, and then we will compare them.**
8. Distribute a coin to each group or ask for someone to contribute one if possible. **As I read this story, I want you all to hold out your fists in front of you. As I read, you are going to pass the coin around the table from hand to hand but try to do it so no one can see where the coin really is. At the end of the story, we will try to guess in whose hand the lost coin has landed.**
9. Read Luke 15:8-10 as participants pass the coin around their small group. When you are finished reading, ask groups to guess who has the coin.
10. **Did you guess correctly, or was your coin lost?** If you had participants contribute the coin, ask them how they felt about their money being “lost.” They will likely say that they were not concerned, because a coin is not worth much, which leads into the following discussion questions.
11. **Now let’s look at these two stories together.**
  - **We will begin with this question: when you look at the things that were lost, did they seem to have much value?** The sheep was only one of a large flock, and the coin is just a small coin. On the surface, they do not seem to be worth much.
  - **If these items are so insignificant, why do you think the shepherd and the woman spent so much time looking for the lost thing?** *[The coin and the sheep were important to the owners; they were not insignificant.]*
  - **When the lost items are found, what do the shepherd and the woman do?** *[They rejoice, they throw a party, they celebrate.]*
12. **Remember, we said that parables are stories that teach a lesson, so let’s look at what Jesus is trying to teach us in these two stories. What do the lost items represent?** *[The sinners and tax collectors. Us.]* **Who is the shepherd and the woman and what do they do?** *[The represent Jesus searching for us.]* **Finally, what does Jesus do when we are found?** *[Celebrates!]*
13. **Imagine how very special we are to Jesus that Jesus seeks each of us out individually, with all the people in the world, and then celebrates over us. We might feel like we are insignificant and not special, but Jesus shows us and tells us that we are worth seeking, and he will not quit until he finds us.**



# The Word in the World

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## Seek the Missing

10 min.

Invite others to church.

### *Supplies:*

- Card stock
- Markers or crayons
- Optional: Internet-connected devices

### *Preparation:*

1. Talk to your church communications person about ways to digitize these invitations and promote them on your social media pages.

### *Instructions:*

1. **We have already talked about how long it has been since some of us have seen each other, and some of our friends and neighbors might be missing from our time together today. We are going to spend some time letting them know that we miss them and that we will celebrate when they join us again!**
2. Invite individuals to make cards to distribute or images that can be posted to social media inviting people to join in worship or education opportunities at your church. Include specific information about times, days, places, and descriptions of what will be happening. Be sure that the tone of these invitations is welcoming and exciting, and not guilt-inducing.
3. Distribute the invitations or post them to social media during the week.



# Beyond the Gospel

## All Are Welcome

10 min.

Recognize our own sin.

### *Supplies:*

- Bible
- Optional: altar area, candles, music player

### *Preparation:*

1. If desired, set up an altar area in your meeting space as a focal point for this prayer experience.

### *Instructions:*

1. **Do you remember why the Pharisees were angry at Jesus in the beginning of Luke 15?** [*Because he was associating with sinners.*]
2. **That seems difficult for most of us to imagine, because it seems easier to focus on the ways we that fail than on the reasons that we should be loved. Yet Jesus, in Luke 15, makes it clear that he will continue to seek us out and love us and welcome us back each time that we get lost or wander away.**
3. **The writer of 1 Timothy felt the same way. As I read these words, listen deeply to them. We will follow this reading with a time of silence to consider the ways that we fall away from God, the ways that we wander, the ways that we sin. You can close your eyes or focus on the altar area as you listen and reflect.**
4. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17. Allow for reflection when you are finished.
5. **Let's close our time of reflection with a prayer: Jesus, we know that you love us, yet sometimes we feel unlovable. We know that you will always seek us out, even when we wish to remain hidden. We know that you love us more than we can ever understand and more than we could ever love ourselves. Thank you for seeking us, finding us, and loving us. Amen.**



## Additional Activities

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### Little Lost Lamb

10 min.

Play a game of searching.

#### *Supplies:*

- None

#### *Preparation:*

1. If you decide to move beyond your learning space for this activity, be sensitive to what is happening in other areas of the building and set designated areas for play.
2. This is a game of hide and seek. Decide if you want to have each small group look for their lost lamb, or if the large group will search.

#### *Instructions:*

1. **We have heard stories of Jesus seeking out the lost lamb. Today we will do the same thing by playing a game of hide and seek. We will send our lamb(s) out to get lost, and then we will work together to find them. We will continue to play until all our lambs are found.**
2. Instruct participants about the boundaries. Play as time allows.



## Additional Activities

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### Lost Today

20 min.

Update one of the parables.

#### *Supplies:*

- Bibles
- Optional: video recorder costumes, props

#### *Preparation:*

1. You might choose to film these story updates to share with the congregation or to watch in your class later.

#### *Instructions:*

1. **What would happen if Jesus were telling these stories today? What examples do you think he would use about lost things and about finding those things that were lost?**
2. **In our small groups we are going to tell our own versions of the Luke 15 parables but updated for today. What things would people leave everything else for to seek out? What seems insignificant that really is important? What words would Jesus use to tell his story today? When you have an example, we will act them out.**
3. **You will have 10 minutes to come up with your example and rehearse.**
4. **Either act out the updates in class or film them.**





## Additional Activities

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### I Am a Sheep

15 min.

Make a craft with self-images.

#### *Supplies:*

- Activity Sheet A
- Marker or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Digital cameras and printer

#### *Preparation:*

1. If you are unable to take selfies and print them in class, ask participants to send you a head shot prior to class. Print them and cut out the head.
2. Print one copy of Activity Sheet A for each participant.

#### *Instructions:*

1. **We learned that we are the lost sheep in this parable. Let's make a quirky reminder that we are the sheep, and that Jesus will leave the 99 behind to seek us out when we are lost.**
2. Hand out one copy of Activity Sheet A to each person. Invite them to color or decorate the sheet, and then glue their own face on as the face of the sheep.
3. If desired, post the images in the classroom.



## Sending

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Give everyone a coin. Take this coin with you and put it in your pocket. Let it remind you that you are so very important and that you are worth so much to Jesus.

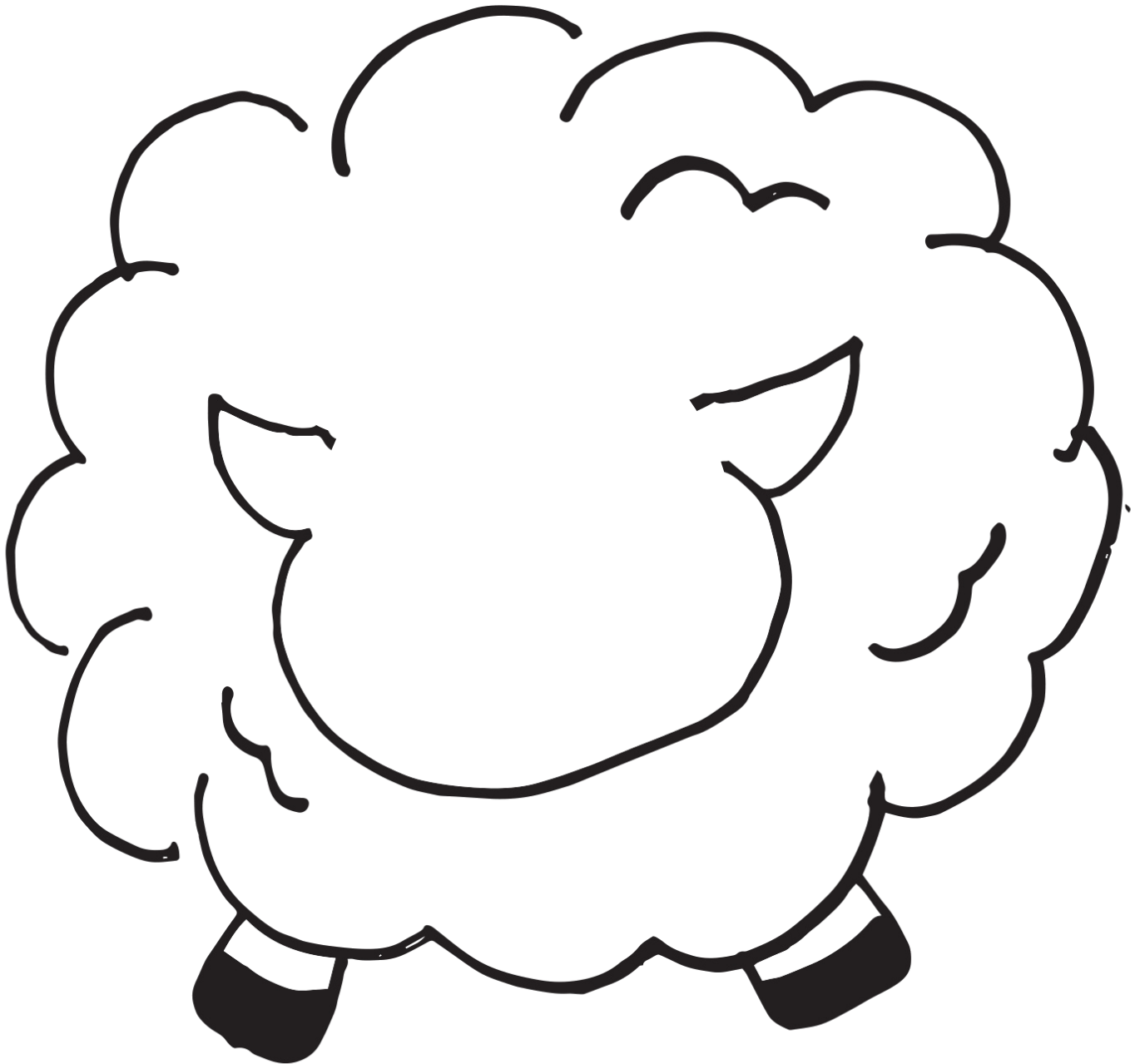
Jesus, thank you for seeking each of us out and for finding us when we are lost. When we feel alone and afraid, help us to remember that you will come for us. Amen.

Remember to send “The Word @ Home” take-home sheet with participants before dismissing them.



# I Am a Sheep

*Make a craft with self-images.*



Jesus seeks me  
and finds me





# The Word @ Home

Pentecost 14  
Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

## The Point

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God seeks after us even when we feel lost.

## Key Verse

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“And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”  
– Luke 15:2

## Scripture Summaries

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**Gospel:** Luke 15:1-10

### Parables of the Lost

In response to criticism from the Pharisees and scribes for associating with “undesirables,” Jesus tells two parables: the lost sheep and the lost coin. They are parallel stories: one out of many was lost, the person spent a lot of effort finding the lost thing, and the owner rejoiced when the item was found. The two stories this week are of the lost coin and lost sheep, although the lost (or prodigal) son is the third story in Luke 15.

**First Reading:** Exodus 32:7-14

The Israelites created an idol out of gold when Moses was up on Sinai with God for an extremely long period of time. God got angry, but Moses talked God out of killing the Israelites.

**Second Reading:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

The author lays out his long list of sins and shortcomings so that others will learn through the salvation and forgiveness that he has received.

## Seasons & Festivals

The season of Pentecost is the longest season of the church year. The liturgical color is green and is connected with the theme of growth. Our siblings in the Roman Catholic Church call this season Ordinary Time—not “ordinary” as in “not special,” but related to the ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc.).

## Discussion Starters

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- What have you lost that you wish you could find?
- How does it make you feel to know that Jesus thinks you are so special that he would go out and search for you?
- What is one way that you can help someone who might be feeling lost this week?

## Prayer of the Week

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Jesus, sometimes we feel lost and alone. Help us to remember that you will always search for us. Amen.

## Daily Bible Readings

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As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

### Sunday

**Read Luke 15:1-10** Owners seeks a lost coin and a lost sheep.  
Take turns hiding a coin or stuffed animal and have the others find it.

### Monday

**Read 1 Timothy 1:18-20** Timothy is given advice.  
Share the best piece of advice that you have every received.

### Tuesday

**Read 2 Peter 3:8-13** The Lord is patient.  
Sit in silence for one minute. Did this feel like a short or a long time? How do you think God feels about time?

### Wednesday

**Read Luke 22:31-33, 54-62** Jesus predicts Peter's denial.  
Read Luke 22:54-62 together. How do you think Peter felt when he realized Jesus' prediction was true?

### Thursday

**Read Romans 3:1-8** God is just.  
Share a time that you were punished fairly.

### Friday

**Read Romans 8:31-39** Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus.  
Have two family members hug, while the others try to pull them apart. Imagine how much stronger is Jesus' grip on each of us.

### Saturday

**Mark 12:41-44** The widow gives her last coin.  
Go get one thing that you treasure. What would it feel like to give that item away?



## Blessing for the Week

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Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:  
**Jesus seeks you when you feel lost. Amen.**