



February 28th Discussion Guide

LENT SERIES: PARABLES OF THE LOST

This is a 5 week study called **Stories to live by: A Lent series on the Parables of Jesus**. Content for this discussion guide is based on the sermon, so participation in weekly worship will enhance the conversation on this topic. If you want to watch the sermon it can be viewed at [Sermons Archive - Good Shepherd Church Naperville](#)

Prayer

Open your group in prayer.

Icebreaker (10 min)

Have you ever lost or found something of great value or importance? Share the emotions you had when that happened.

Discussion (30 min)

1. Read Luke 15:1-7
 - a. Why were the Pharisees and teachers of the law muttering? How do Christians today tend to “mutter” as well?
 - b. Why was the sheep lost? Do you have a lost sheep in your life? Were you ever a lost sheep?
 - c. How does Jesus explain His overall mission in this parable?
2. Read Luke 15:8-10
 - a. Who does the lost coin represent? What does the woman do when she finds it?
 - b. Have you ever felt the joy in inviting someone to church, small group, or Bible study and they say “Yes”? Share about this experience or a time you witnessed someone saying “Yes” to Jesus for the first time.
 - c. How has God called you into His mission of finding a lost coin?
3. Read Luke 15:11-32
 - a. How low did the younger brother stoop after he squandered all his father’s money? Do you know anyone who has hit rock bottom?
 - b. What ways did the younger brother humble himself before his father? Why does it sometimes take hitting rock bottom before people get to this stage of humility? How did the father respond?
 - c. How did the older brother respond to the younger brother’s repentance and acceptance? How is grace sometimes not fair?
 - d. How did Jesus explain His overall mission in this parable?
4. **Application question:** If the church’s mission is the same as Jesus’s, and we are the church, what do we need to be doing or giving up to stay on mission? How can you organize your life so others will know your mission is Jesus?

Closing Prayer

LORD, the People's Prayer this week in Lent is “Let me persist in seeking you and doing Your will.” Help us seek out the lost and bring them to Jesus. Give us hearts of compassion for the lost so they may be found.