

Seeking the Lost



Theme: Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Proper 19 (24) Yr. C

Object: A precious ring. (It might be a wedding ring!)

Scripture: "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?" Luke 15:8 (NIV)

Everyone has lost something at one time or another. It can be a sickening feeling to discover that you have lost something — especially something that is very important to you. This morning, I am going to tell you about a man who lost a ring — a ring that was very precious to him.

One day, a family went out to a lake on a Saturday afternoon for a picnic. The father and his son walked out to the edge of the lake where they sat down on a log and took their shoes off. The father also removed his watch and ring and placed them in one of his shoes. They had a good time splashing and playing in the water. When it was time to go home, the father sat down on the log and put his shoes and watch back on. He didn't even notice when his ring fell out of his shoe onto the ground. They loaded up the car and went home.

The next morning the family got up and went to church. As the pastor was preaching, the father looked down at his hands and realized that he wasn't wearing his ring. At first he thought, "I must have forgotten to put my ring on when I was getting ready for church." But then he remembered that he had taken his ring off when they were playing in the water the day before. As soon as church was over, they hurried to the car and drove to the lake. In his mind the father thought to himself, "I know I will never see my ring again!" When they arrived at the lake, the father jumped out of the car and ran down to the edge of the water. To his amazement, when he looked down beside the log where he had sat to remove his shoes, there was his ring!

As you can imagine, the man was overjoyed to find his ring! For weeks he told everyone he saw about how he had lost his precious ring and then had found it again!

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus told a story about a woman who lost something. The story is called, "The Parable of the Lost Coin" and it goes like this. . . "Suppose, a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she will call in her friends and say to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents."

Why did Jesus tell this story? Many of the religious leaders of the day were critical of Jesus because he was associating with sinful people. He was even eating with them! He even visited in their homes! Jesus wanted the religious leaders to understand that he came to seek and save those who were lost. He also wanted to make it clear that just as we would be joyful if we found something we had lost, everyone in heaven is also joyful whenever even just one sinner turns from sin and returns to obeying God.

Dear Father, we are thank you that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. We thank you for the parables that he told to remind us that we belong to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

LESSON HUNT - At the beginning of our lesson today, children can be asked to HUNT for a shoe, a pair of glasses, a lunch box and a pair of mittens. Bring them back to the teacher to see what these have to do with our lesson today.

HUNT FOR LETTERS to fill in the empty blanks on the poster board that is on the focal wall. Part of the poster words can be written on the poster and the rest of the letters can be taped around the room for the children to find and to tape in the correct spots on the poster board. JESUS CAME TO SAVE LOST SINNERS! (ex: J__ s __ s C__ ___ e to S __ v ___ _ o ___ t S __n n ___r s!

HIDE AND SEEK - One child will be "IT" (the Shepherd) and all other children will run and hide in designated areas. When the "shepherd" finds a "sheep", he'll bring him back to the teacher and will say, REJOICE WITH ME, I HAVE FOUND MY LOST SHEEP, and the game can continue for as long as teacher desires. To add interest to the game, have the person who is "it" dress in a costume to look like a shepherd.

LOST COIN HUNT - One coin can be hidden in a designated area and children can search high and low for the coin. Teacher will say several times NOT TO GIVE UP and they will continue to search. If coin is not found right away, the teacher can say they are getting hot or cold to point children in the right direction. Discussion about Jesus not giving up on us when we are lost after this coin hunt will encourage the children... as well as the teacher, actually :-))

COIN ETCHING - Each child can be given a coin, a pencil and a piece of white paper. They can slip the coin under the paper and etch the coin with the side of the pencil. (if pressed hard enough with the side of the pencil, the etching will show the coin). TITLE the paper to take home with Luke 15:10 as a remembrance of today's lesson, OR REJOICE WITH ME - I HAVE FOUND MY LOST COIN!

God's Lost and Found



Theme: Jesus came to save lost sinners. Proper 19 (24) Year C

Object: A large box labeled "Lost and Found" and filled with items that children might lose.

Scripture: "In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." Luke 15:10 (NIV)

Does your school have a "Lost and Found?" I'm sure does. Kids are always losing things. Early in the school year, there probably isn't very much in it, but it won't be very long until the "Lost and Found" is running over like this box. Let's see what we can find in our "Lost and Found" box.

Look! Here is a shoe. How in the world can a person lose one shoe? Wouldn't you think they would notice that they were only wearing one shoe?

Here's a pair of glasses. Now, how can a person who wears glasses do their homework without their glasses? Well, I guess that's a better excuse than telling your teacher the dog ate your homework. Teachers never believe that one.

Hmm...here's a lunch box. I was always losing my lunch box when I was in school. That is why my mom

started making me take my lunch in a brown paper bag.

Here's a nice pair of wool mittens. Maybe the person who lost these isn't too worried about them right now, but when cold weather gets here, they will surely wish they knew where they were.

Have you ever lost something that was really important to you? What did you do? Did you just say, "Oh well, no problem, I can always get another one?" No, I imagine that you probably searched until you found what you had lost. In our Bible lesson today, Jesus tells two stories about people who have lost something very important to them.

The first story Jesus told was about a man who had a hundred sheep. One of his sheep strayed away from the flock and became lost. Every one of the man's sheep was important to him, so he left the ninety-nine and went to search for the one lost sheep. When he found it, he was so happy that he called all of his friends together and said, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep."

Next, Jesus told a story about a woman who had ten silver coins. Each of the coins was worth a day's wages. The woman counted her coins, "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine. Oh no! I have lost one of my coins," she cried. Do you know what she did? She turned on every light in the house, swept the floor, and searched until she found the one lost coin. When she found the lost coin, she called all of her friends and neighbors together and said, "Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin."

Jesus told these two stories to demonstrate God's love for us. We are God's children, but sometimes we get lost. When that happens, God doesn't give up on us. He searches for us and he won't stop until we are found. In fact, the Bible tells us that God sent his son, Jesus, to seek and save the lost. And just as the people in the story rejoiced when they found what was lost, Jesus said, "There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

I'm glad that God loves us so much that he doesn't give up on us when we get lost, aren't you?

Father, we are your children and you love each and every one of us. We are thankful that you don't give up on us when we get lost. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.