

Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year

The lost coin

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever lost something which is very important or precious? Perhaps a favourite book or a particular toy. Today Jesus reminds us that God knows and loves each one of us, and will search until he finds us if we should lose our way.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Sing the Candle Song.

SORRY

If we do something wrong and wander away from God's love, he is always ready to forgive us and lead us back to him. Listen to this story Jesus told:

'One day a shepherd found that one of his flock was missing, so he left the other ninety-nine sheep, and went off to look for it. He searched and searched until he found it, because every one of his sheep was precious to him.'

If we have not been good,
and have lost our way,
let us ask Jesus to forgive us
and to lead us back to his flock.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus came to forgive sinners and share his love.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL (cf Luke 15:1-3, 8-10)

After overhearing the Pharisees complaining about him spending so much time with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus told a parable: 'Once there was a woman who had ten silver coins. One day as she counted her savings, she realised that one of the precious coins was missing! The woman was poor, and to lose even one small coin made her very sad. So she lit her lamp and looked under all the furniture. She swept every corner of the house and searched until finally she found it! Picking up the coin she ran to tell all her friends the good news.'

Then Jesus said, 'God will search for anyone who is lost, and rejoice when he finds them.'

DISCUSSION

Why did the Pharisees complain about Jesus?

The Pharisees were very proud of their 'goodness' and their obedience of the law. They would not associate with people they considered to be sinners, and yet Jesus welcomed sinners! All too often for the Pharisees, Jesus was to be found spending his time with 'sinners' instead of people like themselves.

What happened in the parable which Jesus told? – (Encourage the children to retell the story in their own words.)

Did the woman give up searching for the coin? – The coin was very precious to the woman, and even though she could not find it at first, she carried on looking until her efforts were rewarded. In the same way, God our Father will search for anyone who has wandered from his love because each one of us is precious to him. Jesus came to forgive the sinners who had 'lost their way', and welcome them back to God's love.

How did the woman react when she found what she had lost? – Her sadness turned to joy, and she ran to share the good news with her friends. When we sin and turn away from God's love, he is filled with sadness. This sadness turns to joy when we change our ways and come back to our heavenly Father.

ACTIVITY

Photocopy the house shape on to thin card. You could enlarge it as well. Give a copy to each child. The older children can cut out the windows themselves. Ask the children to draw the woman looking for the lost coin inside.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Turn back to me
and I will reach out and save you,
because you are my children
whom I love.