



# STORY TIME

Great Life Lessons from the Parables of Jesus



## LESSON 1 // LOST AND FOUND

**Big Idea:** As a wise master teacher, Jesus often used stories (called “parables”) to communicate key spiritual truths. In Luke 15, three of His parables illustrate important principles we all need to learn about God’s love and care for lost people.

We understand from these stories that loss is a real part of life. Then these parables encourage us to believe recovery from loss is God’s plan. As part of this plan, we need to accept three things: our responsibility in recovery, God’s gift of recovery and the fact that some folks will not be excited about our recovery.

**Luke 15:11-13; 17-20 (NIV)** *Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ... But when he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.”’ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”*

### Start Talking:

Describe a significant loss have you experienced. How did God help you through this?

### Start Thinking:

**Read Psalm 23:1-3; Isaiah 53:6; Luke 19:10.** How do these verses speak to you about God’s heart for people that are spiritually lost and His plan for their recovery?

**Read Luke 15:17-19.** In what ways did the son in this story accept responsibility for his recovery? How does this apply to us as we seek to recover from losses?

**Read Luke 15:20-24.** What was the father’s response to his son? How does this picture our heavenly Father’s response to us when lose our way spiritually?

**Read Luke 15:1-3, 25-32** Why is it so important to understand God’s grace in His plan of recovery? What happens if we fail to grasp this?

### Start Praying and Doing:

Pray for a fresh revelation of God’s grace and love that restore us—no matter how we have strayed away from Him!

Take an honest inventory this week of your walk with the Lord. Look for any indication that you need to own responsibility for a point of restoration, that you must “come to your senses” like the prodigal son in Jesus’ parable and go back to your heavenly Father with humility and faith.