

# Jesus Teaches in Parables



## Key Theme

- Jesus taught by telling stories (parables).



## Key Passage

- Luke 15:4–7



## What You HEARD in the Word

- Jesus told a parable about a lost sheep to teach that He came to seek and save sinners.

Ask your child these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 Who is like the lost sheep in the parable?
- 2 Who is like the man that searched for his sheep?
- 3 Where will there be joy when someone turns to Jesus?



1) A sinner. 2) Jesus. 3) In heaven.



## Read the Word with Mom & Dad

### Monday (Luke 15:3)

What kind of story did Jesus speak to them?

### Tuesday (Luke 15:4)

How many sheep did the man have?

### Wednesday (Luke 15:5)

What did the man do with the sheep when he found it?

### Thursday (Luke 15:6)

Why did the man want to rejoice with his friends?

### Friday (Luke 15:7)

What will happen in heaven when one sinner repents?

### Saturday (John 14:6)

Who is the way? Can you say this verse by yourself?

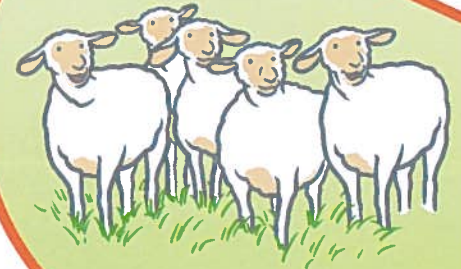
## Learn the Word!

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*

**John 14:6**

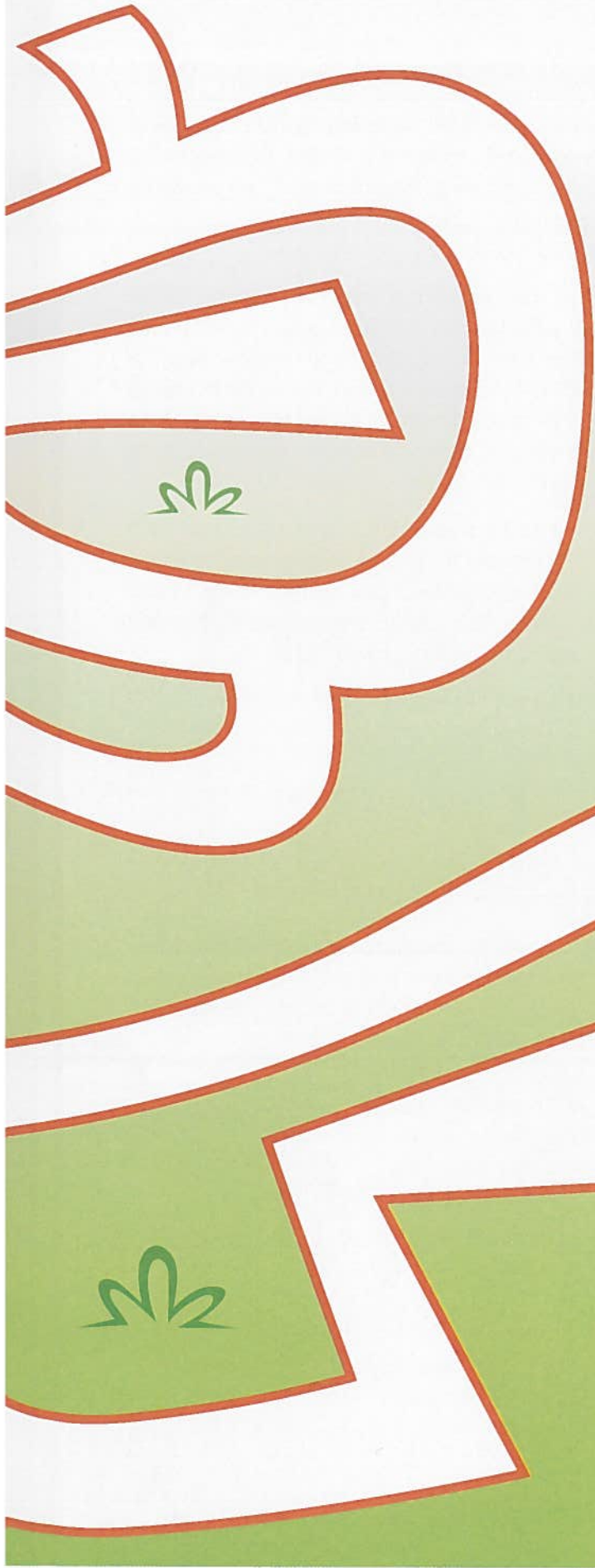
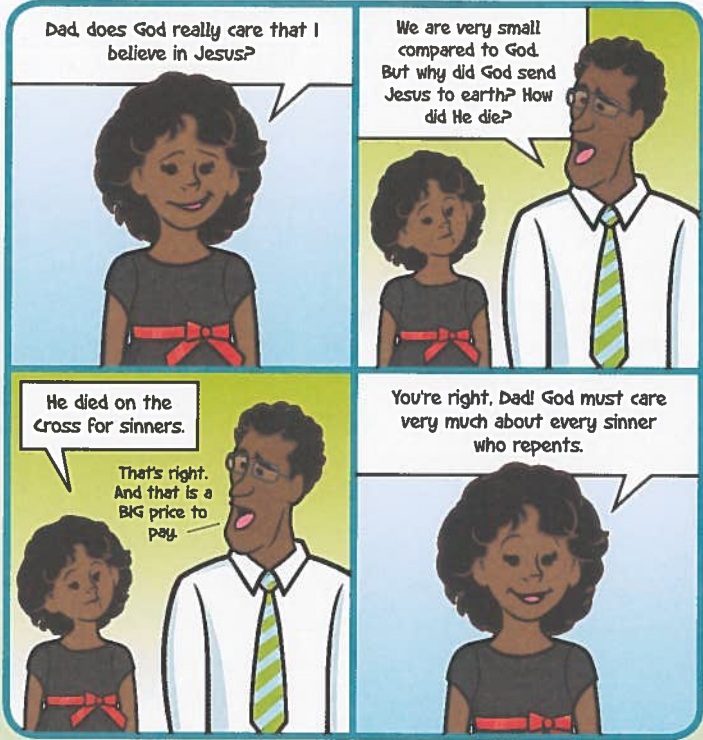
## The Man Found His Sheep!

Jesus taught a parable about a man who lost his sheep. Help the man find his sheep below! Then color the pictures!



Jesus said He is the light, the bread, and the door. Come next week to find out what He meant!

**LIVE** the Word with Maria and Her Dad



## HomeWord

For Parents

**O**ne of the hallmarks of the teaching of Jesus was His use of parables. Simply put, a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Parables help the listener to discover the deeper, or spiritual, meaning and underlying truth of Jesus's teaching.

Depending on which ones you include, there are between 35 and 45 different parables of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. Some of these were longer, including such popular ones as the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32). Others were short, pithy statements such as, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened” (Matthew 13:33).

But, why did Jesus teach in parables? There are two reasons given in the Bible: to conceal and to reveal. By resorting to parables, Jesus effectively separated the truth-seekers from the merely curious. Those seeking the truth would say, “Explain to us the parable . . .” (Matthew 13:36), while the merely curious could easily be dismissed. They would not ask and were unwilling to receive Jesus’s message. The truths were heard by unbelievers, but the

meaning was hidden because they did not want to hear.

In a way only God could contrive, the very things which were useful to reveal and make clear the truths about the kingdom to those willing to hear were also used to conceal truths about the kingdom from those who would not believe.

Jesus started teaching the crowds almost exclusively in parables after He had begun to receive much opposition from the religious leaders and had been accused of blasphemy. Mark tells us that He did not speak to them without a parable and that when He was alone with His disciples, He would explain the meaning of His teachings (Mark 4:33–34).

The parables of Jesus contain great volumes of truth in very few words. The images Christ presents through them are not easily forgotten. And He has promised that for those with eyes to see and ears to hear His truths will be revealed (Matthew 13:16).

*Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.*

## OutWord

For Family Discussion

What if your friend told you he just doesn't believe that Jesus would care if he believed the Bible and the gospel? **What could you say?**

*God is so big and so powerful, and we are so little, it does seem hard to believe that He would care for us and for our souls. But I can tell you that He does care! After all, Jesus lived, died, and rose again so that everyone who believes could have eternal life. That isn't the sacrifice of someone who doesn't care! And the Bible tells us that all of heaven rejoices when one sinner repents of his sins and turns to Jesus for salvation. It isn't just Jesus who cares—but ALL of heaven! And all of heaven will rejoice if you repent of your sins, turn away from sin and turn to Jesus, believe the Bible, and trust that Jesus forgives your sins through His death and Resurrection! You can believe that to be true.*

## inWord

For Family Study

“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word” (Psalm 119:114). Where does confidence in God's protection and hope in His Word come from? Teach your children where real hope lies—read and memorize Scripture together.

*Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.*

