

Not  
School's out!

Summer lessons from the parables

# Main Point

When you're lost Jesus will find you, then find yourself lost in the presence of Jesus



Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Luke 15: 1-2 NIV



# The Set Up

- ★ Jesus welcomed tax collectors and sinners
- ★ Pharisees didn't like the association
- ★ Jesus wanted to remove the “us and them” mentality





**COUNTRY  
MUSIC**



**LOVE IT**

**LOATHE IT**

# BRIDGE THE GAP



# Hang Out With The Lost

- ★ Anyone who doesn't know Jesus is spiritually lost
- ★ Show them Jesus by how you live
- ★ Get so lost in Jesus' presence that He spills out of you



Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?”

Luke 15: 3-4 NIV





And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep'

Luke 15: 5-6 NIV



# The Parable

- ★ Sheep could get easily lost
- ★ That one sheep matters
- ★ The shepherd willingly carries the sheep back
- ★ The one sheep is celebrated



# Chicago



# We All Get Lost

- ★ You may have never been found
- ★ You may have drifted off course
- ★ God WANTS to find us
- ★ God doesn't give up on us when we're lost so we shouldn't give up on ourselves when we're lost



I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

Luke 15: 7 NIV



# The Lesson

- ★ The response to being found is to repent
- ★ There is joy when just one person repents



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# Rejoice When Someone Repents

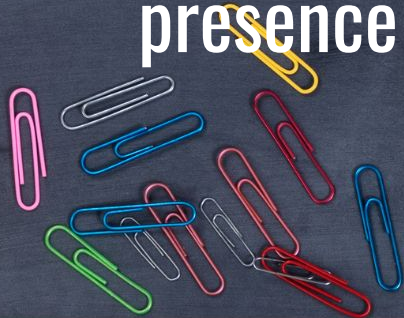
- ★ Celebrate repentance
  - Your own and someone else's
- ★ God's family grows and becomes healthier
- ★ Jesus came to seek and save the lost





# Wrap Up

- ★ Being lost happens
- ★ Be with the lost
- ★ If you're lost, Jesus will find you and pick you up
- ★ Rejoice over repentance
- ★ Stay in God's presence and get lost in God's presence



## Audio file

[Lost Sheep Audio Only.mp3](#)

## Transcript

Why are we talking about losing things? Well, because today we're going to talk about a parable that includes being lost. The parable of the Lost sheep each week this summer, we're looking at a different parable and seeing what Jesus is teaching through that parable. It's called schools, not out for the summer. We're going to take summer lessons throughout this from Jesus's teaching now. We've heard about Humility we've heard about greed and all these different things today is about being lost. Jesus is going to use the example of a sheep being lost from its flock. And the big part today kind of our big thing is that the shepherd will go look for that one lost sheep, just like how Jesus is going to come looking for us if we are lost, we're going to have another parable next month where we deal with coming back to Jesus when we've gone away. The parable, the prodigal son. But today the big purpose. Is that we have this. Awesome truth that Jesus will come find us. I want you to think about this when you're lost. Jesus will find you. Then get lost or find yourself lost in the presence of Jesus. When you're lost, Jesus will find you, find yourself lost in his presence, so get lost with him. So we're going to look at the parable. We'll break it up a little bit and see why is Jesus telling this parable? That's how it's going to start. Why did we set this up? Why does he need to talk about this and then see what he teaches? So let's dive in. It's going to be Luke 15. It'll be right up here behind me. If you want to follow along there in your Bibles on the tables, phones, apps, whatever, I will be in the NIV translation. So let's start. Luke 15 just verses one and two to kick us off. It says this. Now the tax collectors and sinners, while gathering around to hear Jesus, but the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered. This man welcomes sinners and eats with them. We're going to stop there. So Jesus is hanging out with the tax collectors and the sinners. The point is they wanted to hear him. They wanted to come here. What Jesus has to say. Jesus says cool. Come on, come listen. He welcomed them in the Pharisees didn't like this. As we've talked about in other parables, these Pharisees are looking for reasons to trap Jesus, to find fault with them, and this was one the tax collectors were despised. People they worked for the Roman government, they worked for Harrod. They were probably skimming money off the top. They associated with Gentiles, which would have made them unclean. And they weren't. And then he's got these sinners and nobody. 'S really totally. What Luke is writing here about sinners. I heard a cool quote from NT right? He said the Pharisees would have seen the sinners as those that were hopelessly irreligious and out of touch with God's demands. That's how the Pharisees would see them. People that just couldn't get close to God. But what they were. Is people in need of forgiveness? People in need of Jesus? So what does Jesus do now? What the Pharisees does and separates him, Jesus goes and associates with them. He hangs out with them. He befriends me, says let's go hang out. Because they are the lost. So the Pharisees being around them, this would just be totally unacceptable. Goes against all social norms and customs that we don't associate with them, but Jesus per usual, doesn't care about their social norms. He cares about his Kingdom norms, which is let's go find the lost. Let's be with them. Let's seek him out. Let's save them and to do that, he needs to associate with them, not keep them separated. He doesn't want this US versus them mentality. Now we get us versus them in society. In our world, all the time. We need a light hearted example. We won't get too deep with this, Chris. You can put this up. Who loves country? Music

me and Ryan. Jamie, who loathes country music. Yeah, see, we got a lot of hands in here, right? This is one of those a little disappointed. We got so many Lowe's in the room. If you've heard me talk before, I love me some. Country I played it on. Our car trip recently. It's great alright. But we tend to. Love it or loathe it, right? They're separated, right? Some of you can't stand the twang and the songs about trucks and fishing and heartbreak. Some of us, like Ryan and I, text about it all the time. Like, dude, that one was awesome. So something, something has to bridge this gap between music fans. Come and let's see what happens. Darius Rucker and Taylor Swift bridged the gap. Why Darius Rucker was in a pop rock band in the 90s. Then he went country. Taylor Swift, our girl tee swizzle. We all know I'm a swiftie, right? She started country and now went full pop. We bridge this gap. We don't have to have country in that country. Let's just bring it all together. And have nice music, OK. I don't know. We all see. We just solved the music issues right there. We just did it right here today. Now this is in essence what Jesus is doing. Jesus is bridging a gap. I'm not saying Darius Rucker and Taylor Swift are the Jesus of music. I'm not saying. It you can, but Jesus does is he bridges the gap? He hangs out with people and brings it. So to bridge this gap, we have to associate with the lost. I think the lesson from this first part is we need to hang out with those. That would be spiritually lost. Those that don't know Jesus little tidbit of advice when you do this, don't refer to them as the lost. Hey, I'm Jeff. I'm going to hang out with you. Probably not super effective. Go there, but go hang out with them. It's anybody that doesn't know Jesus because it's easy to think that the laws are what we get caught up in is it's the addicts, it's the criminals, it's all this. That might be true, but it's also your neighbor, your coworker, your client. The person that has it all put together. But doesn't know Jesus. They are the spiritually lost. Anyone who doesn't know Jesus. They're in your lives. We all have people like this in our lives. So be with them and exercise some caution. We don't want to be unduly influenced by things that aren't honoring to God. But we want to have relationships with these people. We want them to know Jesus, Jesus and Mark 217 says. It's not the healthy that need a doctor, but the sick. It's the people that don't yet know him, those that are lost in the case of this parable. So hang out with them, form relationships with people, right. You don't have to lead with. Hey, you know your coworker? I work in accounting and I'm a follower of Jesus. You don't have to even bring it up that way. Just show them Jesus by how you live your life, by how you act. Show them Jesus by how you act. I think that's what people want to see. They want to see it more than hear it, and that's something I've been thinking about for a while. Let them see Jesus through you. Let the people see the you that God created shine and let them see God through that, and then God will bring up. What he needs to when it's time he may bring himself up through you. He may do it when you don't see it, but he'll do it. Just get yourself so lost in the presence of Jesus that he comes out of you naturally. Think about it like this I have. My coffee cup. If this is. No matter where I spin or get hit or turn, what's going to spill out of this is coffee, because that's what it's filled with. If we get so lost in the presence of Jesus that we're just filled with him, no matter how we get hit or bumped, we let Jesus come out and those people that we're hanging out with have a chance to see him through us. With those, that would be the spiritually. But how does Jesus really feel about those that are lost? Let's keep going in the parable and see this is Luke 15. Three through 6 says this. Jesus told them this parable. Suppose one of you has 100 sheep and loses. One of them. Doesn't he leave the 99 in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he? Finds it, and when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says rejoice with me. I have found my lost sheep. Alright, so he tells the parable. And he uses. The Sheep shepherd flock. This is a cultural reference. That is hers would have understand a lot of people owned livestock. So he says, if the owner of the flock. This is the owner, not a hired hand or a hired manager, but the one that owns the sheep. Fee ls 100 of them

and just one goes missing. He would go after that one. Sheep are not the brightest of the animals out there. They would easily go astray. They don't make their way back on their own. It says they would. Usually they would get lost and just get super agitated. And disoriented, and make a bunch of noise and need to be found and helped back. So the shepherd leaves the 99. And he goes to find that one he knows where the 99 are. He goes to find the one because that one sheep matters and then he finds it and he carries it home. Maybe that sheep is tired, is hurt, is broken, is beaten down, and he doesn't just drag it by the legs back home. He picks it up on his shoulders and makes sure that sheep gets home safely. He does it willingly, not out of anger or obligation, but he has a heart for this sheep, so he wants to go find it. And he brings it home and then he goes even further. He rejoices over the fact that that sheep is back. He throws a party. He's so excited that he found just one sheep that he was missing, that he throws the party and rejoices with it around. Imagine owning 100 of something. I don't think I want 100 of anything, but you lose just one and you go looking for just that one. And get that excited about it. So there's that lost sheep. The sheep was lost and it was found. I'm sure many of us in our lives have been, like, actually lost with directions. When I was in college, singing in choir and we went on tour over spring break to Chicago. It wasn't a big choir, but we're staying in a hotel in the Hilton in Chicago. And that night we were going to go see the Chicago Symphony. So our director says go out. Do whatever you want for dinner and then come back at a certain time. And we'll get on the bus. We'll go to the concert. So we go to eat at Gino's E great pizza in Chicago. Good deep dish. And there's like eight of us going out there and one of the girls in the choir was from Chicago. So she knew the area and guide us there. We're finishing up and the girls like we need to go back to the hotel. And get ready to go out. And guys like we're gonna finish our pizza, but get dressed, I'll wear a hoodie and sweats. I don't care. So we stay and. Then we start to leave the restaurant, realize we don't know how to get back to the hotel. So we're looking around doing this in Chicago and we're a bunch, you know, kids from Madison. We're like, we know we're going, we start wandering around looking, looking and vividly I can remember. This voice that just says, fellas, fellas, fellas. Where we going and we turn. There's this dude. We've never seen before. And we tell him we're trying to get this Hilton. He's like, follow me. Now, looking back, this might have been a terrible idea. But we did it. We blindly followed this dude we've never seen before. And you know what, before we know. It we turn and there's our hotel. We're like this dude and we we tipped him, you know, ask for money. All that kind of stuff. But we like this dude just walking around, finding fools like us. That don't know. Where we are. And you better believe we're like the sheep, agitated and frustrated. We're like, this is a problem. But this guy came and found us and brought us back. Getting lost or being spiritually lost happens. Maybe you're in a position where you haven't actually been found by Jesus yet, and I mean that, but like you haven't accepted Jesus yet, that's OK. He's still coming. He wants to find you. And it's never too late for that. If you want to talk more about that, I would love to talk to you about that whenever you're ready. Now, maybe you've accepted Jesus and you've gone astray a little bit. Maybe you've gone astray a lot. A bit right. This has happened to many of us and I think it tends to be like a veer off course. Sometimes in life we just get on autopilot and we just go somewhere before we know it. We're somewhere where we weren't trying to be. This happens to me. I'm driving my kids places. We have one main route we take and then there's a left turn that I usually take. To go to both my daughters preschool and Jeremiah's karate studio. But I have had times where I just make that turn even though I need to go straight to go to somewhere else because I just go on autopilot and I end up being like, oh, this is not where I wanted to get to. This happens in life when we kind of lose focus on God with work, with trips, events, kids stuff, other life stuff. And none of this. Can be inherently bad, but when we lose focus on God, we don't prioritize God in our lives. We can drift, and

I usually see it as like a gradual drift. We start to go start to go start to go, and then we realize. We're not. We're supposed to be now. The good news is we don't have to call AAA or use our Google Maps or anything because God is all of those things. He will come find us and it's actually super cool about him is that he wants to come find us. He wants to do it. That's how much value we have to him. The Pharisees would be cool with the lost and lost. Remember, they're hopelessly irreligious, but to God, there's plenty of hope. He wants to come find us and he finds us individually. It's not this blanket thing where he's like, alright, today I'm going to go scoop up all the lost cheese heads in Wisconsin. I'll just grab them today and tomorrow we'll do. It'll be fine. He wants to find you. And then he carries back to him, you know, and it's not this whole, like, captor carrying an enemy back like you're in trouble. It's he loves you and carries you back because he hasn't given up on you even though you're lost. It's easy to feel like we just need to give up when we're lost. But when we're lost, God doesn't give up on you, so you shouldn't give up on you either. God will come find you and wants to bring you back. And then he rejoices. Once you've come back not in trouble, he rejoices. Get lost in that rejoicing with God that the God of the whole universe is excited that you're back with him and his family. Soak that in. Get lost in that. And enjoy that and be back with him and with others in his family with other people we rejoice with each other over that so we get lost in that joy in that presence. That's what he's teaching through this parable. And then he gives a final lesson in the last verse, Luke, Luke, 15, seven. I tell you, Jesus saying this, I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over 1 Sinner who repents than over 99 righteous persons who do not need to repent. He ends up by basically saying once you've when you've been lost and you have found and he brings you back the responses to repent. There is joy in heaven when just one person that was lost comes back and repents. They know they need to repent. That's kind of the idea when Jesus brings us back, we know we've gone astray. We know we need to repent. Now the other 99, as he says, they just they don't need to be found at this point. It doesn't negate them. It doesn't mean God doesn't love them, but what Jesus is saying is we're rejoicing in this change of status. These people that were lost that are now found this is exciting. This is a good thing. Maybe it seems like repentance is an odd thing to get that excited about. But if you think about it, we get excited. And have parties and rejoicing and get really excited about all kinds of things. Right. I have one from when I was right before we got married. Chris, you can put. Up this next slide, Shark week. I used to love shark week. I had a roommate. His name was Garrett. We would literally come out on the Sunday morning. Shark Week started and like knocks and say Happy Shark Week bro and we would start, we would wait for the different episodes. Air jaws up there. That one was. Awesome, all of this stuff we would be like. Oh, we watch the new episodes together at night. We get excited. Fun fact, this little shark right here down the bottom. We saw that guy on vacation. Stacy, Jeremiah and I all touched it. These guys were fishing. We're in Myrtle Beach for a week and a half and they were deep sea fishing next to us and pulled it in. And dude just comes over and at one point he just drops his. It looks like a fish and it's just flailing around and I look like that's a shark, like little black tip shark. So there you go. Still love sharks, right? But we would celebrate this. My roommate and I. Because we could. The final lesson Jesus brings us to rejoice when someone repents. If you've heard me talk about repentance before, you'll know. I say it's it's a U-turn, not a stop sign. We're not just stopping, but we're actually turning back with God, right? So Jesus brings us back and then we commit to staying with him. He finds us, brings us back and we repent from what got us lost. We say OK, we're going to work to stay here with God to change that. Behavior that doesn't honor God. And then we rejoice. I don't often think about rejoicing myself after I repent. If I need to repent, it means I did something I shouldn't have done. I don't feel great. It's like what did I do? I feel bad about myself. But Jesus, like no, no, let's throw a repentance rager over the fact

that you repented. He's like, let's be excited about this. He's not as concerned with why you were lost. He's concerned about the fact that you're found. All right, that he's brought you back. He celebrates you being back. So we should also celebrate. Back so be excited because God's family grows, God's family gets healthier, it gets bigger, and this is a good thing. At hometown one of our values is growth and we say we value spiritual growth because as we grow together spiritually as we continue to be found spiritually, we have a healthier church. We're healthier Christians and. That's what we want here. And again, it doesn't negate the joy or the love for the 99 that are safely with Jesus or that have been found. God still loves you while you're safely with him and he wants you to stay. But his point is how important it is that he finds the lost. He came to seek and save the loss. He says that in Luke 19. So he's just doing what he said he came to do. So once we've been found, once we've repented, we're with him. Get lost in that incredible presence with Jesus. Being lost will happen, right? We may get lost. Others may get lost. And the first thing as we go back to beginning of this message was to be with those that are lost like Jesus did and separate them and ostracized. He was just with them. He hung out with them and let Jesus come and find them through you and how they see you following him. And if and when you do get lost, don't beat yourself up. Don't give up. Jesus won't do that. He comes to find you. He picks you up no matter how broken, frustrated, tired, angry or hurt. You are puts you on his shoulders and brings you back. Willingly brings you back to where you belong. And then we just repent of what got us lost of the behavior we've had and we stay there with Jesus, with his family and with him, and rejoice with the others that we're back and that they're back. And then we stay in God's presence and find ourselves lost in that. Got to thank you for this morning and just this cool message teaching from this parable. They all come find us that when we wander, if we drift, if we, if we go astray. God, that you will come find us and that you want us back. With you that you want to find us, that you will love us that much, that we can be found by you and come back. So, God, I pray that we focus on being with you, God, that if we feel lost, we would listen for you and look for you and see you coming to find us and God that when we come back that we would repent of whatever the things we've done, that we shouldn't have done. God and know that that's not held against us, that because of your forgiveness and your. Grace. God, we're welcome. With you and we thank you so much for that truth. God and that gift that you've given us. We pray this in your.