

OUR LOVING GOD

THE LIFE OF CHRIST WITH SAINT LUKE



PARABLES OF THE LOST SHEEP, LOST COIN, & LOST SON

Luke 15:1-32

This entire chapter covers three parables and all of them indicate to us the enormous love God has for us. Whenever we hesitate to bring ourselves to confession, we can recall these parables and remember - God loves us dearly and always rejoices when we return to Him.

1

GOAL

God loves us & wants to be reunited with us

2

AT CHURCH

In preparation of Great Lent: Sunday of the Prodigal Son

3

AT HOME

Our love and care for our children, teaches them about God's love for all of us



Shepherd:
will protect, seek out, and care for his flock



Drachma:
Silver coin worth one day's wage



Prodigal:
a person who is wasteful of their money & possessions

ACTIVITY: PART 1

Break the class into three groups with the provided handout and 1 of the 3 icons / portrait. (Each group has 1 parable to discuss)

1. What do they know about this parable?
2. What do they want to know about how this parable applies to them or about the icon / portrait?

They will leave the third column blank for now.

Come back together to hear the three parables.



“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.” John 10:11

found you? Did you ever help someone look for a child they couldn't find?

Jesus asks a similar question to a group of people eating a meal with him - If you had a flock of one hundred sheep and one of them wandered off, who among you wouldn't go looking high and low until you found it?

Of course all of them would go looking for that one lost sheep! And when the shepherd found it,

If you lose the attention of the kids (staring off into space / talking to the person next to them), try telling the parable to the kids instead. Don't forget to change your tone, speed of delivery, or ask questions to re-grab their attention if you see it wandering again.

Did you ever get separated from your parents as a little kid and they looked frantically until they “

EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Gospel of Luke: Good News for the Poor by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pages 284-294

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Luke by Blessed Theophylact, pages 192-204

The Parables by Archbishop Dmitri

[GOA: Sunday of the Prodigal Son Resource](#)

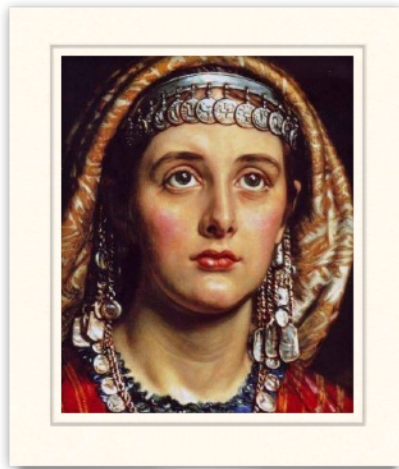


he would lay the sheep across his shoulders and rejoice all the way home!

Why do you think a shepherd would carry a wandering (or hurt) lamb around his neck?
(To protect, care for, and bond with the lamb)

Your parents did the same thing with you when you were little. If you tried to wander off from them at a public place, they would carry you to protect, care for, and bond you to them. And if your parents ever lost you or one of your siblings, they would most assuredly search for you until they found you. Then carry you home rejoicing and telling everyone they found you!

Now, let's remember that Jesus always tells a parable in order to teach those "who have ears to hear." Saint John the Theologian explains to us that the shepherd is Christ. Saint Theophylact shares that the 99 sheep that have stayed beside Christ are the righteous, while the one who has fallen away is the sinner. Let's take a look at the shepherd again, who is Christ. How does He react in the story? Does He reprimand the wandering sheep when He finds it or rejoice exceedingly and tell everyone to rejoice with Him?



Christ finishes the story by telling everyone that "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance."

PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

In this next parable, Jesus tells a relatable story for the women. Who amongst them, if they lost one of their 10 silver coins, wouldn't light a lamp and look endlessly throughout their home until they found it? And then...after she finds it, she invites all of her friends and neighbors to rejoice with her!

Why was finding one silver coin that important to this girl? Well, Fr. Lawrence Farley explains that the coins were probably her dowry. A dowry would be what she could offer to her future husband in order to start their own home together. This money was a big deal to her and all of her friends understood this.

It was a common practice amongst many cultures for the girls to wear the money they had for their dowry. This is no longer a custom we see, especially here in the United States, but we still see a remnant of this with our Greek costumes for the festival. When the girls are wearing coins with their costumes, this represents what they would have had for their dowry in times past.

PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

We more commonly know this as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Based on what you remember from this story, what do you think prodigal means?

There was a father who had two sons. One day, the younger son decided he wanted to set out on his own with his portion of his father's inheritance. Now, is an inheritance typically given to a child before or after their parents die? So, this is a pretty bold request made by the younger son. But, his father divided in half what he had to live off of and gave it to this son without any arguing or comment from the father. He just gave.

This younger son packed up and left to a far country - a far country indicating that he was no longer near his father - and he quickly spent every last penny he had in his pockets on anything that caught his eye. He was so poor that the only job he could get was to feed the pigs. Let's remember that this is hitting rock bottom for a Jew because pork is considered unclean to eat. So, here he was making sure the pigs were well fed, while his stomach was growling fiercely at him.

Then it occurred to him that his father's servants are well fed and want for nothing. He could go back to his father seeking forgiveness and begging him to let him be one of his servants.

But what happens? How does his father greet his lost son when he sees him?

The father goes running to his lost (prodigal) son! He hugs him and gives the order for the servants to prepare a feast and clothe his son once again in the family's garments, including a family ring! The father rejoices exceedingly that his lost son had returned!

If one of your siblings had taken off with half of your everything your parents had, how would you feel when they suddenly showed up penniless and asking to move back in with your family?

Well, the older brother was furious. This wasn't even remotely fair. He had been working this entire time and now his younger brother was back and he'd have to share what was left of his father's.

The father pleads with the older son to forgive his brother and come join the celebration. The father attempts to soothe the older son and tells him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours."

The parable does not tell us what happened next with the older son. Did he go into the celebration and hug his brother or did he stay outside and separate himself from his family, not through frivolous spending but through bitterness and anger?

ACTIVITY: PART 2

Ask the kids to return to their original group and discuss and write down:

1. What did we learn about how this parable applies to our life?
2. What did we learn about this icon?

ACTIVITY: PART 3

Each group can present their chart to the class and share what they wrote together.

SING:

Middle School - Save O Lord Thy People

High School - More Honorable Than the Cherubim

OUR LOVING GOD

AT HOME

FOR PARENTS

W *hat saves and makes for good children is the life of the parents in the home.*

St. Porphyrios

On the Upbringing of Children

A *s the mother is, so the child will be.*

St. Nektarios

Motherhood and the Raising of Children

As parents, we have several saints who provide guidance on raising children. Here are two links to digital books:

- St. Porphyrios: [On the Upbringing of Children](#)
- St. John Chrysostom: [On Vainglory & the Right Way for Parents to Bring Up Their Children](#)

Additionally, you can find guidance from St. Nektarios in our church bookstore:

- *For Mind and Heart: St. Nektarios as Teacher*

HOME ACTIVITY #16

Family Discussion: This week in Sunday School, you learned all about the Parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Lost Son. All of these parables teach us about God's love for us and His desire to be reunited with us. Why is it important to ask each other for forgiveness? Why is it important for us to go to Confession and ask God to forgive us?

Bedtime story: Read the Bible





Ἡ ΠΑΡΒΟΛὴ Τῆ Ἰσώτη Νιόν



OUR PARABLE IS:
THE LOST SHEEP

Luke 15:1-7

WHAT I KNOW
about this parable:

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW

WHAT I LEARNED
about this parable:

OUR PARABLE IS:
THE LOST COIN

Luke 15:8-10

WHAT I KNOW
about this parable:

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW

WHAT I LEARNED
about this parable:

OUR PARABLE IS:
THE LOST SON

Luke 15:11-32

WHAT I KNOW
about this parable:

WHAT I WANT TO KNOW
about this parable:

WHAT I LEARNED
about this parable: