

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: Sequencing the Parables

Using the attached handouts, cut out each box and mix them up. Then instruct the kids that there are three separate parables in the pile on their table.

Clue: Find the first box for each story which will help you put together all three of the parables correctly.

There are 3 boxes for the Parable of the Lost Sheep, 2 for the Lost Coin, and 7 for the Lost Son.

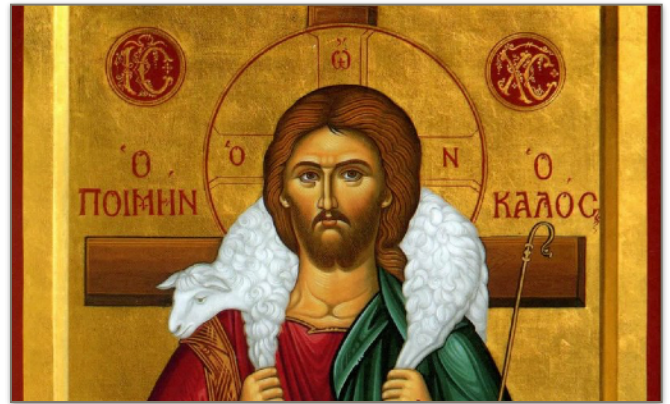
Part 2: Read each parable out-loud

A teacher can check the sequencing, guide the kids if they need any corrections, and then read each parable.

Part 3: Learn about the icons

Christ the Good Shepherd

Jesus is the shepherd in the story of the Lost Sheep.



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

A shepherd wants to take care of his flock of sheep. If a lamb wanders off, he needs to teach it to stay with him and the flock so the shepherd will carry the lamb on his shoulders for awhile. The lamb gets used to the shepherd’s voice and grows attached to him.

“And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”
John 10:4-5

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](#)



There is a cross behind Jesus because He gave His life for our salvation.

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

Parable of the Prodigal (Lost) Son

In the top middle of the icon, we see the angels in heaven standing next to an empty throne. Jesus came down from heaven for us.

On the right side of the icon, we see Jesus (the father in the story) hugging the younger son in the story (all of us).

On the top right side, we see the father’s house and a pathway leading down to where they are standing. The father didn’t wait for the son to come all the way to him, He came to meet the son.

On the top left side, we see the far away country. Below that, we see the younger son feeding the pigs and wanting to be back home with his father.

SING:

O Holy Apostles

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

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP

If a shepherd had 100 sheep and one of them wandered off, he would leave the 99 in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost and he would keep looking until he found it.

And when the shepherd found the lost sheep, he would lay it on his shoulders, rejoicing!

And when he came home, he would call all of his friends and neighbors together to share in his joy for finding the lost sheep!

Likewise, there will be more joy in heaven over 1 sinner who repents than over 99 just people who do not need to repent.

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST COIN

A woman had 10 silver coins, but lost 1 of them. She lit a lamp and looked all over her house to find the 1 lost coin.

When she found the lost coin, she called all of her friends and neighbors to come over and rejoice with her!

Likewise, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over 1 sinner who repents.

THE PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

A father had two sons. One day the younger son asked his father to give him his inheritance. The father did so and the son packed up all that he had and moved to a far away place.

The younger son soon spent all of the money his father had given to him when a severe famine occurred in that land. This younger son found the only job he could find and was feeding pigs.

He watched as the pigs filled their bellies, but he had none.

He soon came to his senses and realized that his father's servants have plenty to eat while he had absolutely nothing. He decided to return to his father, tell him he didn't deserve to be one of his sons, and beg him to be one of his servants.

As he was approaching his father's home, the father came running out to hug him! The younger son apologized. His father immediately called out to his servants to prepare for a celebration, to bring clothes, and a family ring for his younger son. He was lost and now is found!

Now, the older son was out in the field when his younger brother arrived home. When he got near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So, he called over one of his father's servants and asked what was happening. The servant then told him that his younger brother has come home and there is a great celebration!

The older son was angry and refused to join the celebration. His father came out and pleaded with him to join everyone else.

The older son didn't think this was fair. His brother was getting a party when he wasted half of the family's money!

Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours.

It was right that we should have a celebration for your brother. He was dead and is alive again. He was lost and is now found.



Ἡ ΠΑΡΒΟΛὴ Τῆ Ἰσώτη Νίου

