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Lost

HAVE
YOU EVER
GOTTEN
LOST?



The POINT >

Without Christ, we are hopelessly lost.

> LUKE 15:11-14,17-24

¹¹ And he said, “There was a man who had two sons.
¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.

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¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!’ ¹⁸ I will arise and

go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”” ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³ And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴ For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.





THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

European explorers were notoriously bad at getting where they wanted to go. When they returned home from Mexico, they brought back tomato plants, which ended up in Italy.¹ And voila—Pizza!



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

All people have sinned and have been separated from God, but we can be restored to a relationship with Him when we trust in Jesus and turn from our sin.

Recently, my family and I were hiking in a park near our home in the late afternoon, and we headed back to our car with just enough time to make it back before dark. As it turns out, this wasn't very smart. It was our first time there, and on the way back, I led myself, my wife, and our six kids down the wrong trail. As the sun went down, we still hadn't found the right way back. My kids were tired and scared, and what was supposed to be a relaxing afternoon together turned into a miserable experience for us all.

Most of us have experienced being lost in a similar manner, but the truth is we've all been lost in a far more serious sense. All people are born spiritually lost, and without the Good Shepherd leading us into everlasting life, we'll remain lost. Many may think they're on the right trail according to the wisdom of the world, but without God's pointing the way, we have no hope of finding our way to Him. The misery we'll experience apart from following God is far worse than my evening lost on the trail.

Our sin and rebellion against the holy God is a key theme in Scripture. But God's love for us is an even greater theme. Jesus told a parable that brings these two themes together. We are lost, but we can be found!

LUKE 15:11-14

1 What are some things that lure people away from a relationship with God?

2 How are we tempted to waste the good things God gives us?

LUKE 15:17-19

3 Before surrendering to Christ, how did you live like the prodigal son?

4 What led you to come to your senses spiritually?

5 What kind of changes did God call you to? Have you actually changed?



Simply acknowledging our sin isn't enough. We must turn away from pursuing wrong, selfish things, and instead, pursue God and the things He desires for us. #BSFLHolyVocab



LUKE 15:20-24

6 When have you been tempted to live far from God? In what ways has God restored your life?

7 What does this parable teach us about the heart of God?

8 What are the riches God promises to His children today?



LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // PEOPLE

All people have sinned and have been separated from God, but we can be restored to a relationship with Him when we trust in Jesus and turn from our sin.

When an object is lost, it means the item is separated from its owner and can't be recovered. When a person is lost, it means we can't find our way to the place we want to be. For the person broken by sin, both apply. We were created to be with God, but sin has separated us from Him. We long to be in a place of security and peace, yet because of sin, there's no way we could ever find our way back to God. But with God, the seemingly impossible is possible, and He recovers the lost and guides them in the way of life.

> CHRIST

Read the following passages. What do they teach us about the riches available in Christ?

PSALM 19:9-10	ROMANS 11:33	EPHESIANS 2:7
PHILIPPIANS 4:19	COLOSSIANS 1:27	

How will you demonstrate this week that Jesus is your treasure?

- GOD
- JESUS
- HOLY SPIRIT
- BIBLE
- SALVATION
- CREATION
- CHURCH

PEOPLE

- FAMILY
- COMMUNITY & WORLD



> COMMUNITY

Though the son betrayed his father, the father was ready and waiting to welcome him home forgiving all past offenses.

9 When have you refused forgiveness to someone who offended you? Are you still holding onto this?

10 Our Father is incredibly gracious and forgiving, and He calls us to be like Him. How will you extend forgiveness to someone who's hurt you?

> CULTURE

People of the world treasure the things of the world—money, possessions, respect, and comfort, among other things. However, God's children value the things He values, and this stands out as different to those who look at our lives.

11 How will you make it clear to those who know you that, in Christ, you have eternal riches?

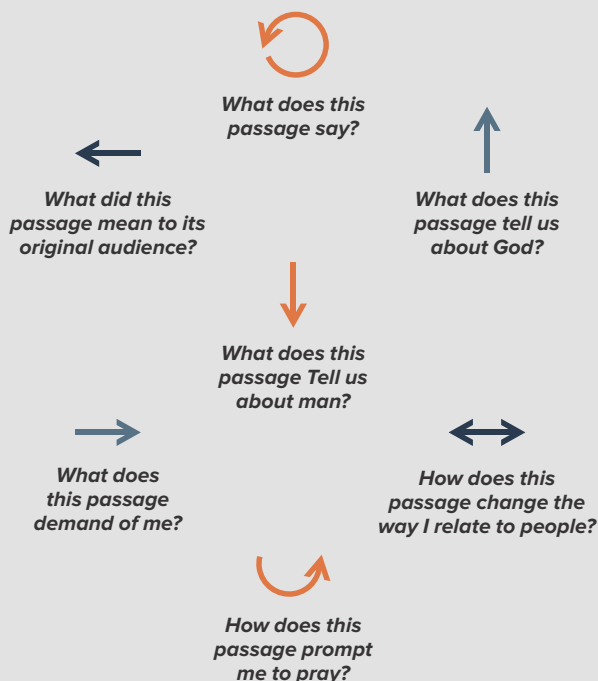
12 How can this make a difference in the lives of your friends?

Pray every day that God would use you to help someone who is lost to be found.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One LUKE 15:3-4

Jesus had been spending time with sinners and tax collectors—people who were outcasts and hated by society. The religious leaders at the time were criticizing Him, for this was simply unacceptable for a respected teacher. So Jesus told them a story. If a man owns 100 sheep and one were to become lost, Jesus made the case that a good shepherd would make sure the 99 were safely kept, but would leave the group in order to find the lost sheep. Obviously, this made sense to everyone listening. After all, a shepherd in Jesus' time wasn't always the owner, and if he lost even one of the sheep, he'd be in big trouble with his master. The shepherd wouldn't simply sit back and hope the lost sheep would find its way back—sheep aren't too bright, and this would never happen. Instead, he'd take the initiative to bring the sheep home.

- **Why were the religious leaders upset that Jesus was spending time with sinners?**
- **When have you wandered away from safety and into danger?**

Day Two

LUKE 15:5-6



When noticing the sheep was lost, the shepherd had obviously asked friends and neighbors if they'd seen it. He probably asked them to be on the lookout. When the shepherd found the sheep, there were a number of ways he could have responded. He could have been angry and yelled at the animal. He could have beaten the sheep for wandering off. But instead, the shepherd recognized that the sheep must have been tired and scared, and he put the sheep on his shoulders. Shepherds genuinely cared for their sheep—after all, they spent most of their time with their animals. Instead of anger or frustration, the shepherd simply felt joy that his animal was safe. And in celebration, he shared with all his friends that the lost sheep was home.

- › **When have you felt torn between being upset and being joyful?**

- › **Why do you think the shepherd invited all his friends to rejoice with him?**

Day Three

LUKE 15:7

The religious leaders saw it as their responsibility to hold the people to the high standards set forth by the law. From their perspective, God was pleased with those who obeyed perfectly, and for those who were sinful, God withheld His blessings. In a sense, they were right. However, they missed out on the fact that no one was good enough to earn God's pleasure. All people are sinful, and therefore, we all deserve God's wrath. Jesus is the only person ever to live a truly good life. With this in view, what brings joy in heaven isn't all the people who see themselves as righteous—instead, it's those who recognize their brokenness, repent of their sins, and trust in Jesus. Jesus spent time with sinners because these were "lost sheep," and He was looking to bring them home.

- › **Describe your experience of being a "sinner who repents."**

- › **How is God calling you to love the lost so they would trust in Jesus?**

Day Four

LUKE 15:8-9

The woman in Jesus' story wasn't a rich woman. A silver coin was about a day's wages in first century Jewish culture, so she had a couple weeks' worth of funds. This means every cent mattered, and she needed to account for every penny she had. So when one of her coins came up missing, which was worth a significant amount to her, she made it her business to find it. She didn't just take a look around and then let it go. She lit a candle so she could see in the dark places. She swept her whole house to make sure it hadn't been covered by dust. She looked everywhere! And because of her thoroughness and commitment, she found it. And just like the shepherd invited his friends to celebrate, she did the same. We may not think a coin would mean that much, but to a poor woman and her friends, she found it was certainly reason enough to rejoice.

➤ **What's something you highly value that may not seem that important to others?**

➤ **Why is every person so incredibly valuable to God?**

Day Five

LUKE 15:10



The religious leaders of Jesus' day may not have celebrated very much at all. They were always picking fights with Jesus, mumbling and complaining about people who weren't as "righteous" as they were, and seeming in a bad mood in general. I doubt they were known as being joyful, particularly about the things that bring joy to the heart of God. Jesus shared that one of the things that brings God the most joy is a sinner—the same one who was rejected by society—who repents. Knowing this is the case, we should devote ourselves to loving the unlovable, touching the untouchable, and pursuing the lost whom society has long forgotten. This is the difference between being like a Pharisee and being like Jesus.

➤ **What things truly bring you joy?**

➤ **How have you reached out to those who are outcasts? How is God calling you to love the lost?**