

# VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

## Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 13 April 25

<b>TITLE:</b>	The parables of the lost. Luke 15
<b>THEME:</b>	The Father's joy at a sinner who repents
<b>AIM:</b>	Understand that God is waiting to receive us joyfully when we repent

### BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

These three parables are very famous and reveal the very nature of God the Father. God is overjoyed when a person repents and becomes part of His family. The Lost son has extra layers of meaning as the story is experienced from three perspectives; the son, the brother and the father. Each one teaches us something of the way God reacts, we react and others react to repentance.

### WARM UP

Hide some Easter eggs in the garden (20). Get youth to go and find them. Ensure everyone gets an egg.

**Pool them and share at end as part of the takeaway activity.**

### MAIN TEACHING

**Activity one:** [Video clip](#) and Read Luke 15

**The Lost coin: You are important to God**

1. Why did the woman search for the coin? She still had lots more.
2. How well did she look?
3. What does this teach us about what God thinks of you?

**Key teaching Point:** You are important to God. The woman searched high and low and swept the house. Yes, she had plenty more coins (see note in extra info) but these were special to her. It would be shameful to lose them. This is how God thinks of us. He sees us as His creations, we are special to Him. He does not want us to be lost and will work hard to "find us."

**Activity 2 You are lost without Jesus**

**Find Shaun** hide a picture/model of a sheep in the room.

Game... Shaun is lost in the room. First one to find him! (celebrate by giving everyone a sweet!)

1. In the parable, why do you think the sheep got lost?

2. In what way are people like sheep?
3. What stops us hearing the shepherd's (Jesus) voice and instructions?
4. How do you think Jesus (the Good Shepherd) is calling and searching for you?

**Key teaching point.** The sheep got lost because it did not obey the shepherd and wandered off. Humans too are like this. We ignore God and His word and this leads us astray. We get lost in sin and selfishness. Jesus searches for us and is calling us to return to Him. He provides many opportunities for us to return to Him such as church, Christian friends, the Bible. We have to turn away from our own way and let Jesus find us!

### **Activity 3 You are found with Jesus**

1. What is the big difference between the coin, sheep and this parable, the lost son?
2. Why did the lost son return home?
3. What does the father's reaction to his son coming home teach us about God's reaction to us?
4. What did the son do to become reunited with his family?
5. Why do you think the other son reacted as he did?

**Key teaching point.** In this story the father does not go and search but knows his son will come home. He is waiting for him. He is ready to forgive him. When he returns it is not to be told off but welcomed as the son he is. We must realise God does not want to punish us or chastise us, but He wants us to be close to Him, to be as close as a loving parent and child! Sometimes "good" people get upset when really bad people become Christians because they fail to see how far a person has gone from God before they return. If you have always believed, you can become a little complacent about how much God loves you.

### **TAKEAWAY**

**Give out the eggs from the warm up ...** Egg represents new life. When you become a Christian, repent of your sin, your life begins again... you are born again, spiritually and become a child of God!

***But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. Luke 15:32***

### **Extra Info**

The coins were a wedding dowry that she would give to her new family when she married. They were worn as a necklace They were incredibly precious, and represented the family savings as well. It would bring dishonour to her family if they were lost.

Some scholars think the three parables represent the Trinity. Coins =Holy Spirit, Shepherd =Son and the Prodigal son, the Father = God the Father