

Luke 15: 1-32

Lost and Found



Think about and discuss one or two questions from each section.

Getting started

1. What's something precious that you've lost?
2. Have you ever been lost? What happened?

The text – Luke 15:1-32

3. Read Luke 15:1-2.

What's been happening between Jesus, the religious leaders and the outcasts so far in Luke's Gospel?

4. Read the three stories about lost things in Luke 15:3-31. What are the similarities and differences between the shepherd, the woman and the father?
5. One commentator has proposed that the shepherd represents Jesus, the woman and the lamp represent the Holy Spirit and the father represents God the Father. What do you think?
6. Who rejoices in the stories? Why?
7. What are some of the scandalous elements in the third story? Why does Jesus include these?
8. Look carefully at the language the older brother uses to describe his family and relationships in Luke 15:25-32. What do you notice?

The Scriptures – Luke 15:1-32 as a portion of the Scriptures

9. How might the picture of a shepherd relate to Ezekiel 34:1-16 and Psalm 23?
10. What connections can you find between the teaching in Deuteronomy 21:15-21 and Luke 15:11-31?
11. How does Luke 15 relate to the story of Jesus travelling to Jerusalem in Luke 9-19?

Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Luke 15:1-32 as a portion of the Scriptures

12. Consider the grumbling of the religious leaders and the resentment of the older brother. Are there times when you are like this?
13. How has your life story involved a movement from lost and dead to found and alive?
14. Are you like the shepherd, the woman and the father?
15. When do you find yourself rejoicing in your salvation and the salvation of others?