

## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

# LOST PROPERTY

## EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

### *Introducing the Gospel*

#### *Lost sheep and lost coin (Luke 15: 1-10)*

As Luke's Gospel continues to take us closer to Jerusalem, so Luke's message focuses more closely on the significance of Jesus' crucifixion in opening the reign of God more widely. Meanwhile, the welcome that Jesus extends to sinners causes the Pharisees and scribes to grumble. Jesus responds by telling two parables to emphasise God's concern for the individual who is lost. It is significant that, while one parable is told from the perspective of masculine experience, the other is told from the perspective of feminine experience. Both the shepherd and the woman go in search of what has been lost, one sheep and one coin. These two parables are followed immediately by a third parable about the lost son.

The image to stimulate reflection on Jesus' teaching about God's concern for the lost is *lost property*.

### *Core extract from the Gospel (Luke 15: 8-10; for reflection throughout the week)*

Jesus said, 'What woman having ten silver coins,  
if she loses one of them,  
does not light a lamp, sweep the house,  
and search carefully until she finds it?  
When she has found it,  
she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying,  
"Rejoice with me,  
for I have found the coin that I had lost."  
Just so, I tell you,  
there is joy in the presence of the angels of God  
over one sinner who repents.'

### *Gospel prayer (for use throughout the week)*

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you rejoice when the lost are found.  
We praise you for searching for us.  
We praise you for finding us.  
We praise you for keeping us safe  
in your everlasting care;  
for you are our God,  
now and always.  
Amen.

**READING NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**

**Luke 15: 1-10**

**The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.'

**The Parable of the Lost Coin**

'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

## ENGAGING WITH THE THEME

### *Dwelling with the text (Luke 15: 1-10)*

Begin to explore Luke's account of Jesus' teaching about God's concern for the lost by employing the SIFT approach of Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking. You may find that one of these approaches comes easier to you than the others. But it is worth trying all four.

- What details in the passage catch your attention (Sensing)?
- What big ideas in the passage spark in your mind (Intuition)?
- What most touches your heart in the passage (Feeling)?
- What most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage (Thinking)?

### *Thinking and talking*

Identify topics within the passage that can get you thinking and talking. Here are some ideas to get you started.

- Why is Jesus welcoming sinners and eating with them?
- What do you make of Luke pairing these two parables?
- What do you make of the refrain 'Rejoice with me'?
- What does this narrative say for us today?

### *Using your Bible*

While Luke shares the narrative of the lost sheep with Matthew, the narratives of the lost coin and the lost son are only in Luke.

- Matthew 18: 12-14
- Luke 15: 11-31

Explore other passages in Luke where Jesus causes offence by engaging with sinners.

- Luke 5: 30
- Luke 7: 39
- Luke 19: 1-7
- Acts 11: 1-3

Explore God's commitment to search for the lost in the Old Testament.

- Ezekiel 34: 4-15

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY (YEAR C) Sunday 14 September 2025

### *Exploring online*

Widen your exploration of Luke's account of Jesus' teaching of God's concern for the lost by looking up some of the following themes and others of your own choosing.

- Searching for the lost coin in art
- The lost coin
- The lost sheep

### *Drawing on experience*

The image to stimulate reflection on Luke's account of Jesus' teaching of God's concern for the lost is *lost property*. Draw on your own experience of lost property. For example:

- Have you lost something precious to you? How did you feel?
- Have you gone searching for something or someone who went missing? How did you feel?
- Have you had lost property returned to you. How did you feel?

What have you learned about lost property?

### *Creating and making*

This section offers pointers to some creative activities that may be inspired by Luke's account of Jesus' teaching of God's concern for the lost or by the image of lost property.

- Create a collage of lost property in the airport.
- Create a poster telling the parables of the lost son or lost sheep.
- Find out about lost property services in your locality.
- Create a reflection, poem, or prayer on the theme of Jesus' teaching about God's concern for the lost or the image of lost property.



## EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

These materials have been developed by the Canon Theologian of Liverpool Cathedral working in collaboration with the staff team here at the Cathedral, and with sponsorship and support from the St Mary's Centre in Wales.



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