

Parables of the Lost Sheep and Coin

Lesson 10

Scripture: Luke 15:1-10

Bible Memory: Luke 6:27, 28, 31

Focus: ♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

The parables in Luke 15 are no doubt some of our favorites. Why? Think about God searching for lost souls like the people in the parables searching for a lost sheep and coin. At first the lost sheep and coin may seem rather insignificant compared to what the shepherd and woman already had. But the message of the parable is clear—God searches for lost souls and deeply loves and cares about *each* person. No wonder these parables are among our favorites. Thank God for His love!



Lesson 10 at a Glance

1 FOCUS IN
Use one or more of these activities to help students explore what it means to show love and care.



Quick Step
Love and Care



Option
Acting Out Love

Immerse Materials

Other Materials

- items for kids to care for (see activity), paper, pencils, timer

- baby doll, toy dog

2 EXPLORE HIS WORD
Use these activities to help students explain Jesus' parables.



Bible Exploration
Luke 15:1-10

- Resources sheets 2 and 8, Resources CD, Activities for lesson 10

- Bibles, CD player, pencils, reusable adhesive



Bible Memory
Luke 6:27, 28, 31

- Resources sheet 6, Bible Memory reproducible page

- Bibles, scissors, 2 envelopes



Optional Bible Skill Builder

- Resources CD Optional Bible Skills 10 printable file

- Bible concordances, Bibles

3 MAKE IT REAL
Use one of these activities to help students understand God's love for them.



Quick Step
Sum It Up!

- Activities for lesson 10

- Bibles, pencils



Option
The Cross Says It All

- roll paper, scissors, Bibles, markers, colored pencils, crayons, reusable adhesive

4 LIVE IT OUT
Use one of these activities to help students thank God for His love and determine to accept His salvation.



Quick Step
Thank Him



Option
God's Love Is a Gift

- card stock, scissors, box, wrapping paper, tape

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one or more of these activities to help students **explore what it means to show love and care.**

Focus

♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us.

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing the additional activities on the unit page or *Resources* CD Extra-Time Activities.

Quick Step Love and Care

Pair kids up. Give each pair a sheet of paper and a pencil. Also give each pair two items to care for. SAY: **You have two minutes to think of as many ways as you can to love and care for the items I gave you. Write your ideas on your paper.** When time is up, let each group show its items and share its list. Then SAY: **Although we don't love pencils or markers, we can take care of them.**

ASK: **What are some things that you love and care about?** (family, friends, pets)

How do you love and care for pets? Accept responses.

How do you love and care for family members? friends?

What does it mean to show love and care for others? (do nice things for them even if I'd rather be doing something else, give them lots of attention)

SAY: **It's great to have people in our lives who love and care about us, and it's great to love and care about others. Let's keep thinking about that as we explore two parables Jesus told.**

Option Acting Out Love



Divide the class into two groups. Give one group the baby doll and the other group the toy dog. SAY: **Each group is to work together to think of as many ways as you can to love and care for the item I gave you. Then you'll act out those ways. We'll see which group can come up with the most.** Encourage everyone to participate. After a few minutes, let each group do its acting. Thank everyone for participating.

ASK: **What are some things that you love and care about?** (family, friends, pets)

How do you love and care for pets? Accept responses.

How do you love and care for family members? friends?

What does it mean to show love and care for others? (do nice things for them even if I'd rather be doing something else, give them lots of attention)

SAY: **It's great to have people in our lives who love and care about us, and it's great to love and care about others. Let's keep thinking about that as we explore two parables Jesus told.**

Materials

items for kids to care for (use items from your room such as pencils, Bibles, paper, markers, tissues), paper, pencils, timer



Teaching Tip

Continue to display the poster for the quarter (*Resources* sheet 1).

Materials

baby doll, toy dog (or cat)



Teaching Tip

Depending on your class, you may want to have the girls in one group and the boys in the other.

Focus

♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **explain Jesus' parables.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Luke 15 records three related parables of Jesus: the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. Today's lesson examines the first two. These parables were given in response to the mutterings of the Pharisees and teachers of the law, who self-righteously separated themselves from "sinners," even refusing to eat with them.

In the first parable a shepherd diligently searched for a single sheep that had wandered away from its flock. When he found it, there was great rejoicing. Here we find scriptural justification for the teaching that Jesus would have died for you or for me had you or I been the only one in need of salvation. Such love compels the lost sinner to respond to God's care. In the parable of the lost coin, a woman with 10 silver coins lost 1. The coins probably had some sort of sentimental value. They may even have been part of the woman's dowry. As in the first parable, there was great rejoicing when that which was lost was found.

Of course, these parables aren't really talking about sheep or coins, but about people. God fervently searches for lost individuals, not because He needs them, but because He wants them! After all, in the parables the shepherd had 99 other sheep and the woman had 9 other coins. When God finds even one person who is lost, all of Heaven rejoices. Quite a contrast to the religious leaders of Jesus' day who, though "spiritual shepherds," cared more about themselves than about people.

Materials

Resources sheet 2, Bibles, Resources CD track 5, CD player, Activities for lesson 10, pencils, Resources sheet 8, reusable adhesive (or pushpins)



Note

The Scripture text is provided on the Resources CD in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want kids to read from the same Bible version.

Media Option

Go to www.youtube.com and type in "the parable of the lost sheep" and "the parable of the lost coin" to find video clips you would like to use.

Bible Exploration Luke 15:1-10

Before class, tear off the word cards from the sheet 8 poster.

Refer to the Bible time lines.

ASK: What have we been learning about history? (It's *His* story. It's God's story.)

What did Jesus do after He called disciples to follow Him? (Jesus taught about God. He healed people. He did miracles.)

SAY: This is where we pick up God's story. Ask kids to turn in their Bibles to Luke 15:1-10. **Jesus is ready to tell more parables.** Have volunteers read the verses aloud. Then divide the class into two groups. Have the groups gather in different parts of the room. Tell one group that they're going to be the tax collectors and sinners who gathered around to hear Jesus. Tell the other group that they're going to be the Pharisees and teachers of the law who didn't like Jesus' welcoming sinners and eating with them. **Listen again to Jesus' parables. If you're a tax collector or sinner, think about what the parables mean to you. If you're a Pharisee or teacher of the law, think about what the parables mean to you.**

Read Luke 15:1-3 aloud. Then play track 5 of the CD. When the parables are finished, ask each group to huddle up and decide as a group what the parables mean to them. After several minutes, have each group report. **SAY: I think you're right. The tax collectors and sinners were probably happy. They liked the idea that God loved and cared about even them.**

The Pharisees and teachers of the law probably weren't happy at all. They thought that only people like them were worthy of God's love and care, not those tax collectors and sinners. I guess they forgot that they were sinners too!

Distribute pencils and the leaflets. Have students turn to the Lost and Found activity. Ask volunteers to read each sentence and choose the correct answers. Then draw kids' attention to the sheet 8 poster. Have the separate word cards in your hand. SAY: **Here are the 99 sheep and here is the 1 sheep.**

ASK: **Are the 99 sheep more important than the 1 sheep?** Put the "are more important" card on the poster. Let kids respond to each question.

Are they less important? Remove the "are more important" card and put the "are less important" card on the poster.

Are they just as important? Remove the "are more important" card and put the "are just as important" card on the poster.

Do the same with the one coin and the nine coins (but use the cards that begin with "is." Then have a volunteer read the Bible verse that's on the poster. SAY: **Jesus told these parables for a reason. ♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us. We're all sinners, and we all need Jesus. When one person comes to Jesus, there's a party in Heaven!**

Bible Memory Luke 6:27, 28, 31

²⁷"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you."

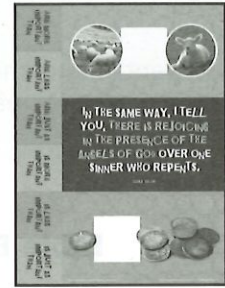
Before class, make two copies of the Bible Memory reproducible page. Cut apart the slips and put each set in a separate envelope.

Continue to display the Luke 6:27, 28, 31 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Have kids turn in their Bibles to Luke 6:27, 28, 31, and have volunteers read the verses aloud. SAY: **The Bible tells us that since God loves us, we're to love each other.**

ASK: **What's a way that you could love someone who is your enemy?**
Accept responses.

What's a way to do good to someone who hates you?

Divide the class into two groups. Give each group an envelope with the Bible Memory strips inside. Tell each group to work together to put the verses in order. Once they've successfully done that, have them put the strips into the envelopes and give to you. Secretly remove one of the strips from each envelope. Return the envelopes and tell the groups to put their verses in order again. Once they know which phrase is missing, they are to ask you for it. If you have time, do it again, removing two or three strips from each group. SAY: **Some of your phrases were lost and then found, kind of like the lost sheep and coin. When you have found and obediently accepted God's love, you can share it with others, even those who don't like you very much.**



Teaching Tip

For more info about parables, have students read Did You Know? in their activity leaflets.

Materials

Bibles, *Resources* sheet 6, 2 copies of the Bible Memory reproducible page, scissors, 2 envelopes



Notes

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

See the teacher contents page for the location of reproducible pages. Reproducible pages are also provided on the *Resources* CD.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the *Resources* CD Optional Bible Skills 10 printable file.



Focus

♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help students **understand God's love for them.**

Materials

Bibles, *Activities* for lesson 10, pencils



Teaching Tip

If you have a small class, have each student look up one or more Scriptures.

Materials

roll paper, scissors, Bibles, markers, colored pencils, crayons, reusable adhesive



Scriptures

John 3:16

Romans 5:8

Romans 8:39

1 John 3:1

1 John 3:16

1 John 4:9, 10



Be certain that kids have enough space to work comfortably on the cross. Or have pieces of paper prepared on which students can write their verses and then attach them to the cross.

Quick Step Sum It Up!

SAY: ♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us. But how much is that? Ask kids to stand up. How far apart would you spread your hands to show how much your best friend loves you? Have kids show that. How far apart would you spread your hands to show how much your parents love you? Have kids show that. How far apart would you have to spread your hands to show how much God loves you? Have kids show that. **Let's see if we can understand a little more about how much God loves us!**

Have kids turn in their leaflets to the Sum It Up! activity. Have pairs of kids (or small groups) work together to look up each Scripture and complete the sentence. When kids are done, have volunteers read their completed sentences. Encourage everyone to complete each of the sentences.

ASK: How much does God love you? Accept responses.
How do you feel, knowing how much God loves you?

SAY: ♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us—that's why He told these parables. God sent Jesus for you, and Jesus willingly died on the cross for you. When you come to Jesus and repent, confess your sins, and are baptized, there's a party in Heaven!

Option The Cross Says It All

Before class, cut a large cross from the roll paper, making the width of the cross the width of the paper.

SAY: ♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us. But how much is that? Lay the cross-shaped paper on the table. Have kids get into pairs, and assign each pair one Scripture passage to look up (add other Scriptures as needed). Pairs will then read their Scriptures and write them on the cross. If desired, kids can also illustrate their Scriptures. When everyone is done, display the cross on a wall. Have the kids take turns reading their Scriptures aloud.

ASK: How much does God love you? Accept responses.
How do you feel, knowing how much God loves you?

SAY: ♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us—that's why He told these parables. God sent Jesus for you, and Jesus willingly died on the cross for you. When you come to Jesus and repent, confess your sins, and are baptized, there's a party in Heaven!

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help students **thank God for His love and determine to accept His salvation.**

Focus

♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us.

Quick Step Thank Him

Ask kids to gather for a time of prayer. Have them stand in a large circle, spreading their arms out to their sides as far as possible. SAY: **We can't spread our arms out far enough to show how much God loves us. God loves us more than we can even imagine. But we can and should thank Him for His love. If you have not yet repented, been baptized, and accepted Jesus as your Savior, I hope you're thinking about it and will talk to your parents.** Tell kids that you'll also be glad to talk to them about being baptized and accepting Jesus as their Savior. Lead the kids in a time of directed prayer. Tell them that you'll pray, and when you pause they should repeat what you prayed.

PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for Your love.** Pause. **Thank You for sending Jesus to earth.** Pause. **Thank You that Jesus died for my sins.** Pause. **Thank You that nothing can separate me from Your love.** Pause. **Thank You that I can be called Your child.** Pause. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Option God's Love Is a Gift



Before class, cut small crosses from card stock, one per student. Put the crosses in a box. Wrap the box, wrapping the lid separately.

Have kids gather in a circle. Give the box to a student and tell kids to pass the box around the circle. SAY: **God's love is a gift, isn't it? God gave us the best gift ever when He sent Jesus to earth.** When the box has been around the circle, tell kids to pass it again, but this time to open it up and take out one thing. **This is love—while we were sinners, Jesus died for us. Take home your cross and put it someplace where you'll see it often. Remember—♥ Jesus wants us to know how much God loves each of us. That's why Jesus gave up His life for us.**

SAY: **If you have not yet repented, been baptized, and accepted Jesus as your Savior, I hope you're thinking about that and will talk to your parents about that.** Tell kids that you'll also be glad to talk to them about being baptized and accepting Jesus as their Savior. **Let's pray and thank God for His love.** Tell kids to pass the box around once more. **When you get the box, I encourage you to pray. Your prayer could be something like "Thank You, God, for Your love" or "Thank You, God, for Jesus, who died on the cross for me."** Tell kids that when they get the box, if they don't want to pray aloud, they can pray silently and then pass the box.



Teaching Tip

See the *Resources* CD Leading Young Hearts Into the Lord's Church guide printable file.

Materials

card stock, scissors, box (with separate lid), wrapping paper, tape



Kidz Chat

Give each student a *Kidz Chat* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.21stcc.com.

