

# Faith in the Home

Sermon Notes for the Kiddos (and everybody else)

Luke 15: 1-10, "Radical Grace"

In today's sermon, we focus on two beloved parables from Jesus. These are the parables of "The Lost Sheep," and "The Lost Coin."

Jesus does not mince words at all. He is firm on keeping the Law of God, and never comprising the will of God. Last week we focused on the fact that you cannot halfheartedly follow Jesus. We are called to go "all in" we follow Him. This challenging on many levels.

The pressure of the world, the schemes of the devil, and our own struggles with sin, make following Jesus on the level He demands impossible without His help. What makes today's parables so wonderful is that we see the heart that God has for us, even though we do fall short!

Imagine you are tasked with taking care of a 100 sheep. You lose one. Would you want to risk leaving 99 to go find the one. Its not as if sheep are incredibly good at taking care of themselves. Consider the terrain. Are you close to cliffs? Is there water for the 99 to drink? What about grass to eat? More over what about predators? No, there is no logic to go save one dumb sheep who wandered off when you still have 99 in your care.

Let's consider the lost coin for second. The coin represents 10% of the woman's wealth. No wonder she is worried. I would want to find 10% of my lost wealth as well! In both these parables, the shepherd and the woman don't accept what they lost. They put everything they have into the search.

Whether the world sees you as a valuable coin, or just a stinky sheep, to Jesus you are a priceless treasure. You are worth finding. When we fall short, Jesus catches us. When we run off and get lost, Jesus finds us. We get into trouble, Jesus helps us. We owe the wage of sin, but Jesus died on the cross and rose again. He paid it all. We have eternal life. Following Jesus is not easy for us, but God never gives up on us. Even when we give up on ourselves, there is not a pit that is too deep that Jesus cannot pull you out of and rescue you from. He knows your weaknesses. He knows your failures. He knows your sinful heart. He loves you all the same. That is radical grace.

So, how do we teach this to our kids at home?

1. Rest in God's grace for you. Children are wonderful. They can bring us so much joy, but they are also quite challenging and often leave us feeling depleted. The grace of Jesus reminds us that we have drained our own parents, and have even frustrated God by our own actions. Yet, Jesus loves us with grace upon grace. That reminder is one way Jesus gives us the strength to love our children with grace. He also covers our imperfect love with His perfect love.
2. Be intentional with the word, "forgive." I've said this before, and for good reason. We hear at worship every Sunday that God forgives us. There is a healing aspect to this. After disciplining your children, don't say, "It's okay." Because it wasn't. Tell them, "I forgive you." Our sin is not okay, yet Jesus forgives us.
3. Teach them to apply grace in their friendships. Kids are going to have drama. While it is good to let them work it out, they will need to be reminded that we forgive because Jesus forgives us. That doesn't excuse bad behavior. They may not understand it right away, but who does. We are all learning to forgive as Jesus forgives us. We also model this for them with our own relationships. Forgiving others might be what God uses to bring them to faith.

*Has this been helpful? Why/why not? Do you have any suggestions? Please contact Pastor Joel at [luckemeyerj@gmail.com](mailto:luckemeyerj@gmail.com) Thanks!*