



Southwest Indian Ministries Camps

Teen Devotional

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SIMCamps | 14202 N 73rd Ave | Peoria, AZ 85381

August 2022 – Sought & Found

Answer the questions and return to SIMCamps | 14202 N 73rd Ave. | Peoria, AZ 85381. Please print legibly.

First and Last Name: _____ Age: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Text Number: _____

Did you ever get lost when you were little?
How did it feel?

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT

Here's a bummer of a thought: you are lost. The Bible says we are sinners; we all make mistakes. God is perfect and holy, and because of that, he can have nothing do to with sin. Since that means the standard for a relationship with God is perfection, sinners are lost causes. That's what the religious leaders—called Pharisees—were saying anyway. In the passage you're about to read, Jesus sat down to eat with tax collectors and sinners, causing the Pharisees to mutter and grumble. If this man were claiming to be the Messiah, why would he eat with lost causes?

Luke 15:1–10

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹⁵ Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins^[a] and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

We are all lost sinners. That may seem heavy-handed, but if we inspect our lives closely, we'll see it's true on several levels. First, no matter how confident you are, you can't say for sure where your life is going next. All the best-laid plans could be ruined by one, last-minute change. The very definition of being lost is not knowing where to go next. It's easy to get lost in the crowds and the chaos of daily life. We have a lot to offer, but in the struggle to be noticed on our teams, in our classes, and in our schools, it often feels like we're being looked past. Even if you do stand out in your community, your community is still one of billions. Second, we're all sinners. Everyone makes mistakes, messes up, and hurts people around them. It's the reality of being born into this world—we are all sinful and unable to escape it on our own.

Jesus loves lost sinners. Jesus told the Pharisees two stories revealing how he really felt about sinners. Spoiler alert: he loves them. We may be lost, but God cares enough to come looking for us and take us back home. He sees us, he gives us a purpose, and he comes to rescue us—not because we're “good” or because we have it all together but because he loves us.

Search Party

Have you heard of an AMBER Alert? It's a warning system designed to alert communities when a child has been kidnapped, named after 9-year-old Amber Hagerman who was taken while riding her bicycle. To deliver the alert more efficiently, phone manufacturers have built an AMBER Alert function into most smartphones. As a result, a single AMBER Alert kind of sounds like every person in the room got a text at the same time with their ringers set at full volume; there's no way to miss it. At that moment, every person who takes the extra second to read and remember the notice effectively becomes another member of the search party along with the family and law enforcement.



An AMBER Alert's goal is to include as many people as possible in the search for the child. In many missing children cases, entire communities spend countless hours, days, or even weeks searching for clues that will lead authorities to the whereabouts of a helpless child. Nobody asks if the child was well behaved or got good grades in school. They just know the child is in need and is helpless.

As intense as the search for a missing child is, God's heart to rescue sinners is even more tenacious. Because of our sin, we're helpless—like lost children—without God. But Jesus came to rescue us, seek us out, and bring us home safely with him. We are not lost and forgotten; we are vigilantly sought.

Questions:

- What do you think the spiritual equivalent of an AMBER Alert would be?
- How long would you look for your missing child before giving up?
- How does the fact that Jesus goes after you and seeks you out make you feel?
- What does it tell us about God that he seeks sinners?

THE BIBLE IN YOUR LIFE

Every single person, on their own, is a hopelessly lost sinner. But we are not completely without hope! God loves us so much that he seeks out the lost. He doesn't seek us out because we have earned it or have anything to offer, but simply because he loves us that much.

Read Luke 15:1–10 again, then answer the following questions.

Questions:

- What do the lost items in these two parables represent?
- What do these stories tell us about how God reacts when he “finds” sinners?
- What do these parables tell you about how God feels about you?
- How should this change the way you view your friends, family, and even your enemies?

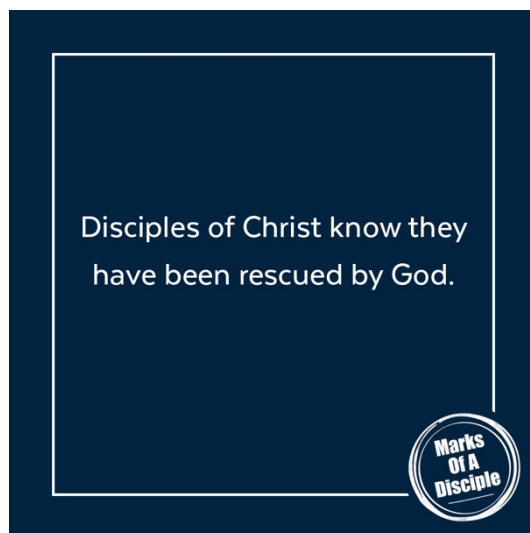
APPLY IT

Part of joining God's family is learning to care about what he cares about, and it's apparent that God really cares about the lost. Brainstorm a prayer list of five people in your life who are lost and need to know that God wants to bring them home to a relationship with him. Pick a time to pray for them daily.

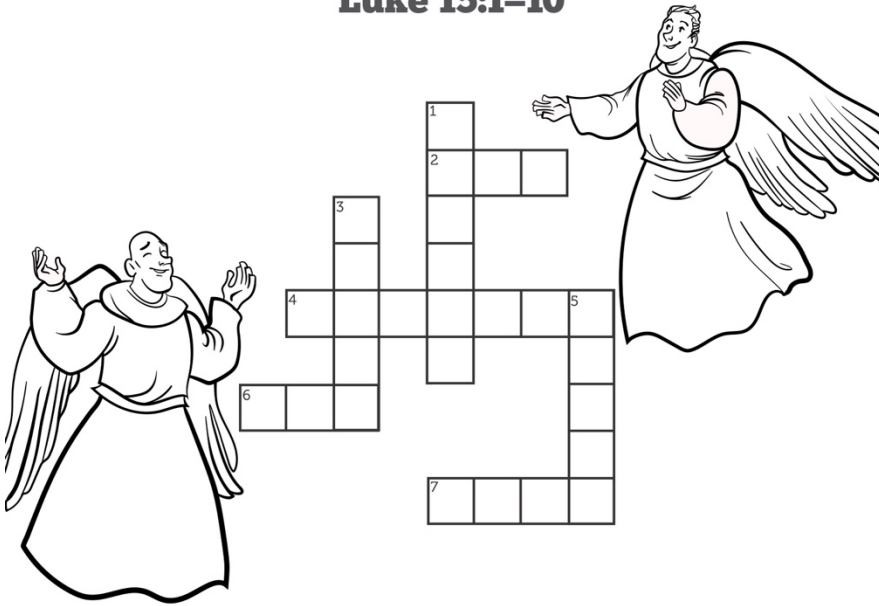
A QUOTE TO THINK ABOUT

“He never abandons anyone on whom he has set his love; nor does Christ, the good shepherd, ever lose track of his sheep.” – J.I. Packer

We are all lost. Thankfully, Jesus loves us enough to seek us out and find us.



Luke 15:1-10



Across

2. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus would ____ with sinners.
4. When the woman finds the coin, she calls her ____ and neighbors to rejoice with her.
6. Jesus told the people that the ____ the shepherd and the woman felt is like what is felt in Heaven when one sinner repents.
7. If a woman lost one of her 10 coins, she would light a ____ to search for it.

Down

1. There is more joy in ____ over one person who repents than over 99 who never strayed.
3. The shepherd would ____ the sheep home.
5. If the shepherd lost even one of his 100 ____, he would search for it.

Discover the hidden words.

S	I	N	N	E	R	S	K	F	R	I	E	N	D	S
P	H	I	I	E	O	H	L	A	M	P	S	E	V	J
H	N	E	V	D	F	V	U	C	G	L	P	R	I	E
A	Z	E	A	T	K	N	C	H	Q	Q	L	H	F	S
R	S	A	E	V	E	N	T	V	S	H	X	T	V	U
I	H	C	P	B	E	I	S	V	E	S	D	L	E	S
S	E	L	O	G	X	N	V	I	I	R	E	Q	N	G
E	E	Z	A	I	Z	T	O	H	P	W	I	S	O	M
E	P	Q	Z	H	N	E	W	L	T	F	W	S	N	Z
S	D	U	S	T	E	S	Q	F	C	O	N	W	B	E
J	G	X	A	O	M	R	H	C	D	U	J	L	J	A
O	H	R	Q	Z	Y	A	Z	W	T	R	K	U	W	T
Y	Z	P	G	K	T	I	Z	M	Q	A	R	O	V	M
M	G	F	J	C	R	H	L	B	P	O	X	J	O	C
R	E	P	E	N	T	A	N	C	E	J	M	H	N	I

Word Bank

SINNERS	LAMP	JESUS
FRIENDS	HEAVEN	REPENTANCE
PHARISEES	SHEEP	TAX
JOY	COINS	EAT