

Aim of lesson

To see the plan and character of God in seeking and welcoming sinners.

Bible background

Luke 15

Outline of lesson

A lost sheep, a lost coin

Read together Luke 15:1-10.

Get the class to do the 'wordtrack' in the workbook. To find out which track leads to each, the class must start at one of the letter 'R's and find the words spoken by the shepherd, woman or father. Each word is in a straight line in any direction. The direction can change at the end of each word. Some letters are used twice. If they find it very hard they can eliminate all the letters B X Z K Q.

This my son

Read together verses 11-32, and continue with the questions about God in the workbook. Encourage the class to put more than just 'a shepherd': 'A shepherd who cared for his lost sheep and went to find it', says more.

The parables should bring home to the class not only the fact that God sees when we are lost and wandering away from him but that he also cares for us, even then. He loves us and wants us to come to him. He rejoices when a sinner repents and comes back to him. Help the class to appreciate the three-fold emphasis on God's joy in these parables.

In discussion, bring out the bad attitude of the elder brother who did not rejoice when his brother came back. Follow through the application, not only to the Pharisees (verse 2) but also to our attitudes to people who do wrong and repent. Do we rejoice as God does?

Digging deeper

Luke and his gospel

This section looks at Luke and his gospel, and how his profession and character are reflected in what he wrote.

Relevance to our lives

The class may like to think of others who have been in their Sunday School class and invite them to come back.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for caring for us and seeking us out when we were away from you. Help us always to repent of our sins and to turn back to you.

Other suggestions for activities

The class could write a letter from the father of the prodigal son, telling a friend of his homecoming. They could write a similar letter from the elder brother.