

**“LOST THINGS”****SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS****DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2022****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. They can help you understand and apply the teaching.

BIBLICAL TEXT(S) + MESSAGE SUMMARY:**LUKE 15**

Have you ever lost something really precious? Maybe it was your phone, a treasured family heirloom, or even a loving relationship. We all have known the pain of loss, and the anxious desire to recover that which we have set our hearts on. What may surprise you is that Jesus shares this common, human experience with you.

This message looks at three stories about lost things, a sheep, a coin, and a son. Jesus tells the tales to a group of critics who don't like the kind of people he spends time with. They assume that the “tax collectors and sinners” whom Jesus welcomes cast doubt on his credentials as a godly person. He disagrees and invites them to rejoice with him that the “bad” people have repented, turning towards the inviting love of God in the person of Jesus.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

1. What's your favorite place to enjoy a good cup of coffee or tea?
2. What are you most looking forward to, in the coming week?
3. How is the most interesting person you've ever spent time with?
4. Have you ever lost something important? What was that like? If you found it, how did you feel?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. Who was gathered around Jesus, and what were they grumbling about?
2. Jesus told his critics three parables about lost things (a sheep, a coin, a son). What similarities between the parables did you note? What differences?
3. In the last parable, how were the father's two sons alike? How were they different?
4. What did the young son remember, after squandering his inheritance?
5. How did the father respond to his young son's return? How did the elder brother respond to his sibling's return?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. In the parables, finding what was lost brings joy that is shared with others. What occasions or events bring people together in joyful celebrations, today?
2. In your opinion, who is the most important character in the third story: son #1, son #2, or the father? Do you see people today who remind you of? Why do you think that's so?
3. In the third story, some of the younger brothers' choices resulted in loss, others in gain. What motivated him? Do you see people in your life today who make similar choices with comparable motives? If so, what do you notice about the?

CONTINUED:

4. A preacher seeks to “comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable” How did Jesus do that? Where do you see a need for this kind of preaching today and why?
5. What did the Pharisees pride themselves in? How about people, today?

LOOK IN: *These are questions that help you consider how to engage the teaching personally. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.*

1. When, if ever, have you had a negative response to Jesus' teachings?
2. What do you most delight in? Things that last, or things that will pass away?
3. Who do you need to reconcile with? A friend, a family member, God himself?
4. Were you personally comforted or challenged by the parable of father and his sons? Who do most identify with in the story?
5. What has your identity been based on in the past? How about now?
6. Is there anything into which you may have “lost” yourself? If you’re willing to share, what is it? It’s okay to keep it between you and God by the way. No pressure.
7. Based on the message, is the Holy Spirit prompting you to turn towards God’s scandalous love for you, and in so doing away from something else?

LIVE IT OUT: *These action steps help apply this week’s message to day to day life. Choose one prompts and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.*

8. Repent by agree with God regarding any sin the Holy Spirit has revealed to you and turning to Jesus.
9. Be mindful of God’s grace to you and extend that grace intentionally to others, even if they may have taken advantage of you. Try to model the gracious love of the father illustrated in this week’s story.