

The Kingdom of God
Lesson 7: The Parable of the Lost Coin
LifeWalk Leader Guide

Open/Icebreakers: What is the most valuable possession you have ever lost? Describe the experience. Have you ever been driving to a destination and lost your way? How does it feel to take a wrong turn? How does it feel when you are the passenger and the one driving gets lost? How does God feel about you? How do you know?

Digging In: Luke 15:8-10

1. What kind of coin did the woman lose in this parable? Why would she look for it so aggressively? Why would she call people to let them know she found what was lost?
2. What is the point of this parable? Speculate on what each item in the parable may represent. The woman? The coin? The friends and neighbors?
3. Remember the audience of this parable. What conclusions would be drawn from the scribes and Pharisees as they listened to this account? How about the tax collectors and sinners?
4. What does this parable tell us about how God views and values people?
5. Consider these three thoughts about this parable and discuss your findings.
 - The coin was lost. Do we know we are lost? What changes when we understand this spiritual reality? What can be done?
 - The woman looked for the coin. If the woman represents God, what does this say about His character? How does he feel about sinners?
 - There was a party when what was lost was found. Do you feel you are worth celebrating? Why or why not? How does it feel when you are the guest of honor at the party?

Reflection: (thoughts shared from whchurch.org)

1. How do Jesus' words confront our culture where sometimes people are seen as a commodity? In what ways do we treat friendships as expendable and therefore fail to value people like God does?
2. If you were to know "down deep" within your soul that God valued you as much as He does, how would it impact your life?
3. In each parable, celebration occurs within the context of community. Friends and neighbors are called and parties occur when lost things are found. Is there a word for us "church folk" in this parable? How can we put the truths from this parable into practice?

Prayer: God, help me see people as you see them. Help me ascribe unsurpassable worth to everyone. Thank you for Jesus and His sacrifice. Holy Spirit, move my heart to love and service.