

## Proper 19C: Parable of the Lost (Reunion Sunday)

**Storyteller:** (*picks up the Parable Box*): I wonder what this is? It is the colour gold. Something inside must be precious like gold. Perhaps there is a parable inside. Parables are even more precious than gold.

### Luke 15:1-10

Tax collectors and sinners were all crowding around to listen to Jesus. So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law of Moses started grumbling, "This man is friendly with sinners. He even eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this story: "If any of you has a hundred sheep, and one of them gets lost, what will you do? Won't you leave the ninety-nine in the field and go look for the lost sheep until you find it? And when you find it, you will be so glad that you will put it on your shoulder and carry it home. Then you will call in your friends and neighbors and say, 'Let's celebrate! I've found my lost sheep.'"

Jesus said, "In the same way there is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to."

Jesus told the people another story: "What will a woman do if she has ten silver coins and loses one of them? Won't she light a lamp, sweep the floor, and look carefully until she finds it? 9 Then she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, 'Let's celebrate! I've found the coin I lost.'"

Jesus said, "In the same way God's angels are happy when even one person turns to him."

It is closed. *Knock on the lid*. It has a lid. Perhaps there is a parable inside. Parables are closed; they need to be opened up so we can see what is in them.

The box looks like a present. Parables were given to us long ago as presents. Even if you don't know what a parable is, the parable is already yours. Shall we open it? Let's look inside.

*Spread the green field on the left side of the board*. Jesus said, "If any of you has a hundred sheep – *put the sheep on the green field* – and one of those sheep gets lost – *move one sheep over to the right side of the board* – what will you do?"

*Put the good shepherd figure onto the board beside the flock of sheep*. Won't you leave the ninety-nine in the field and go look for the lost sheep until you find it? *Move the good shepherd over to the lost sheep*. And when you find it, you will be so glad that you will put it on your shoulder and carry it home. *Put the lost sheep on the Good Shepherd's shoulder and move him back to the flock*. Then you will call your friends and neighbours and say "Let's Celebrate! I've found my lost sheep!"

"In the same way there is more happiness in heaven because of one sinner who turns to God, than over ninety-nine good people who don't need to."

Jesus told another story: *Put the ten coins up on the right side of the board*. "What will a woman do if she has ten silver coins, and loses one of them? *Move one coin down to the bottom of the board near the centre*. *Put the woman in the middle of the right half of the flannelboard, between the nine coins and the lost coin*. Won't she light a lamp – *put the lamp on the board* – sweep the floor – *put the broom in the woman's hands* – and look carefully until

### Story Materials

- Flannelboard
- Green field
- sheep
- Shepherd
- brown rectangle
- ten coins
- woman
- lamp
- broom
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Parable Box

she finds it? Then she will call her friends and neighbours and say “Let's celebrate! I have found the coin that I lost!”

In the same way God's angels are happy when even one person turns to God.