



## PUZZLING PARABLES

### THE LOST SHEEP

#### MONDAY

##### **READ LUKE 15:1-2.**

Jesus welcomed \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with them.

This disgusted the Pharisees and the teachers of law. Romans 3:23 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

How can we keep the mind-set of loving others and leading them to Jesus? How can we protect ourselves from becoming cold and unloving like the Pharisees and the teachers of the law?

#### TUESDAY

##### **READ LUKE 15:3.**

Over the past month at Jacob's Well, we've been learning about parables. Why do you think Jesus taught in parables? How best do you learn? Through information or through stories? Jesus knew the Pharisees and teachers of the law needed to hear him teach in a different way. It was a way to shake them up and make them think. What excites you most about learning through a parable? What do you find difficult?

#### WEDNESDAY

##### **READ LUKE 15:4-7.**

Our shepherd searches for His lost sheep. He desires every one of us to recognize our sin and repent. When we make the decision to follow Jesus, the more time we spend with Him, the more He changes our hearts. We, too, begin to love others and desire for them to know the peace we've found in Jesus. If we're looking down on others instead of loving them, that's a red flag. Pray about this today.

#### THURSDAY

##### **READ LUKE 15:8-10.**

Who do you know that is lost? Who can you pray for? Who can you lovingly tell about Jesus? Jesus will speak through you by the Holy Spirit if you ask Him to. Allow God to show you who He's placed in your life so that He can work through you to reach them for Himself. Pray and rejoice with God as His lost sheep are found!

#### FRIDAY

##### **READ LUKE 15:11-32.**

Which person in this parable most represents you?

**ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO'S RUN AWAY FROM GOD AND HIS LOVE?**

**WHY?** Ask God to help you.

**ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO RAN AWAY BUT HAS COME BACK TO GOD?**

What happened for you to return? Thank God today.

**ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO HAS FOLLOWED GOD FOR AWHILE?**

Do you love others? Praise God for His grace in you to continue.

**ARE YOU LIKE THE OLDER BROTHER IN THE PARABLE?**

Frustrated following rules while you see others having fun?

Do you realize following rules means you've lost your way, too?

We're following a person. If rules have become your path, **STOP.**

Give your heart back to Jesus. God wants a relationship with you, not for you to follow rules. Satan wants you to follow rules so your heart becomes hard like the Pharisees.

**ARE YOU A PARENT WHOSE CHILD IS LOST?**

Pray for a renewed dependence on God's peace today.

Whoever most represents you in this parable, pray about the changes God wants to make in your heart today.

#### SATURDAY

##### **READ JOHN 4.**

Did you know Jacob's Well is based on this passage? Jesus deliberately went to Samaria - a place the Jews avoided. He talked to a woman which was something Jewish males did not do. Even more important, the woman had an immoral character. But instead of avoiding her, Jesus went to where He knew she would come to draw water. As a church, let's remind ourselves once again why we exist. We exist to love God and love others. Isn't that awesome? What next step does God have for you to take?

*Remember... Wherever we are on our journey, we will take steps together to know and become like Jesus.*