

This resource is designed to allow your family to have time in God's Word **BEFORE** your children attend church. Because God's plan is for **parents to be the primary spiritual nurturers** of their children's faith, *we want YOU to be the one to introduce* this part of The Big God Story to them.

HomeFront Magazine: A Spiritual Parenting Resource is a monthly magazine that gives your family ideas for creating fun, spiritually forming times in your home—setting aside sacred space in the midst of your active, everyday lives. Visit www.HomeFrontMag.com to subscribe to the print edition or to have a digital copy sent directly to your inbox.

GOD REDEEMS

Parable of the Lost Sheep, Coin and Son

Luke 15:1–32

Jesus tells parables about lost things—a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son. He uses these stories to help us understand God's great love for us.

JUST FOR FUN

Play the following game as a family. Allow one person to close her eyes and count to 10. Have another player hide a coin in his fist and put his hands on the table. The other players will also make a fist and put their hands on the table. The "counter" will then try to guess who holds the coin. Read **Luke 15:1–32**. Explain that people who don't believe in Jesus are sometimes described as being lost. God rejoices when lost people believe in His Son Jesus and find their way back into relationship with Him. Pray, thanking God for his great love for us.

REMEMBER VERSE

*This is how God showed his love among us:
He sent his one and only Son into the world
that we might live through him.*

1 John 4:9

DID YOU KNOW?

- People who don't know Jesus are sometimes referred to as "lost."
- The parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son relate to God's heart for the lost.
- Jesus' words reminded the Pharisees that they spent so much time worrying about the letter of the Law that they often forgot about the spirit of the Law.
- Through these stories God also reminds us that like the Pharisees, we need to examine our own hearts for the lost.

YOUNGER KIDS

Your younger child may not have yet made a commitment to follow God. As you read these stories together, use the time to remind her of God's great love for us. Remind her of the rejoicing that comes when those who are lost become found.

OLDER KIDS

Talk to your older child about the people in his life who may be lost. Together pray for the salvation of lost friends and family members. As you see the work of God in their lives, rejoice together when the lost become found.

TEACHABLE MOMENTS

After reading the Scripture passage, discuss the following together:

- In each of the stories that Jesus told, what happened so the lost thing (or person) became found?
- Why do you think the shepherd's, the woman's, and the father's friends all celebrated with them?
- How does God want the faith community to treat lost people?

BLESSING

A blessing can be a spoken prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words of encouragement and guidance over your child. For more information about blessing your child, see the Blessing section in **HomeFront: A Spiritual Parenting Resource** @ HomeFrontMag.com

A blessing to pray over your child:

May you have God's heart for the lost. May you remember that God loves you and redeems you!