GENESIS TO REVELATION | PARABLE

The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1-7



YOUR BIBLE READING

Jesus described joy over a person who turns back to God.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

One Sheep Missing

Luke 15:1-7



People called tax collectors and sinners were coming close to Jesus to hear him. Some Pharisees and teachers of the law complained because Jesus welcomed them and ate with them. Their complaint was about the people he allowed near him. Jesus answered with a parable, a story that would help them think about welcome from a different direction: the joy of finding someone who had been lost.

He asked them to picture a man who had one hundred sheep. One of the sheep was missing. The man still had ninety-nine, but the missing one was not unimportant because there were others. In the parable, he left the ninety-nine in the wilderness and went after the lost sheep. The story follows his search rather than listing what happened to each animal that remained behind.

The shepherd kept going until he found the sheep. Jesus does not tell us its name, the place where it was caught, or the path the shepherd took. Those are details an illustration might imagine, but they are not details given by the parable. What Jesus makes clear is the purpose of the search: the sheep that was missing was the one the shepherd went to find.

When he found it, the shepherd rejoiced. He put the sheep on his shoulders and carried it home. The movement changed from searching to carrying, and the missing sheep was now being brought back. Jesus had begun with people complaining about his welcome. He now gave them the picture of a finder whose response was gladness, not annoyance that a lost sheep had required his attention or resentment toward those receiving care.

Remember: One person being welcomed back is worth celebrating.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

The Joy Was Shared

Luke 15:1-7



When the shepherd reached home, he called his friends and neighbors together. He wanted them to rejoice with him because the sheep he had lost was found. The parable does not describe a menu or a party game. Its celebration is simple and specific: something precious had been missing and was now home. The people close to the shepherd were invited to share his happiness over that recovery.

Jesus then explained that heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents. Repenting means turning from wrongdoing toward God, not pretending that nothing wrong ever happened. He compared that joy with ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. The point was not that some people have no worth. The great joy was attached to a return, and the complainers were being invited to understand why such a return mattered.

This explanation helps us see why Jesus told the story at that moment. Welcoming people who came to hear him was not a careless decision about whether their actions mattered. His welcome belonged to God's work of finding and restoring. The listeners who resented those people could look again at the shepherd's joy. They were being asked whether they would join in the gladness or remain outside it, complaining.

To read the parable carefully, we also need to respect its limits. Jesus did not describe a child who should leave a safe place, or suggest that being physically lost proves someone has done wrong. Sheep are a picture in his teaching. The search, the carrying, and the shared joy help listeners understand God's welcome when a person turns toward him and receives a new beginning.

Pause and think: How could you welcome someone's good change while still being honest about what needs repair?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Joining in the Joy of a New Beginning



Have you ever found something you thought was gone? The relief can make you want to tell someone. Jesus used that recognizable joy to explain something larger than a missing object. A person who turns from a wrong action and accepts help is not merely a problem solved. There is a life being restored and a beginning worth welcoming with kindness.

In an ordinary classroom example, someone who has been unkind might apologize and begin treating others differently. You do not need to pretend that the hurt never happened. An adult can help with repair and safe boundaries. But you can notice a good change without insisting that the person must remain forever inside the label of the mistake they made.

The neighbors were invited to rejoice with the shepherd. That invitation asks something of the people watching a return, too. It can be hard when someone else receives attention or another chance. You can speak honestly about those feelings while still making room for a person's growth. Welcoming a new beginning does not take away your own place or value.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Jesus pictured God's joy through a shepherd who found and carried home a lost sheep.

How could you welcome someone's good change while still being honest about what needs repair?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. What did the shepherd do when he found the sheep?

2. What did Jesus say brings joy in heaven?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ He brought it home and invited others to rejoice.
- ☐ The shepherd searched until he found it.
- ☐ One sheep became lost.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw the shepherd carrying the found sheep on his shoulders.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

One person being welcomed back is worth celebrating.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Luke 15:7

A thoughtful conversation

The parable concerns repentance and welcome, not a lesson that children who become physically lost are bad. If discussing real separation, teach the family's practical safety plan.

Activity answers

1. He carried it home on his shoulders with joy.
2. A sinner repenting and turning toward God.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: Jesus, thank you for welcoming people. Help me share joy when someone turns toward good.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Luke 15:1-7. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration: original DigiPick artwork made with AI assistance; an artistic interpretation.
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