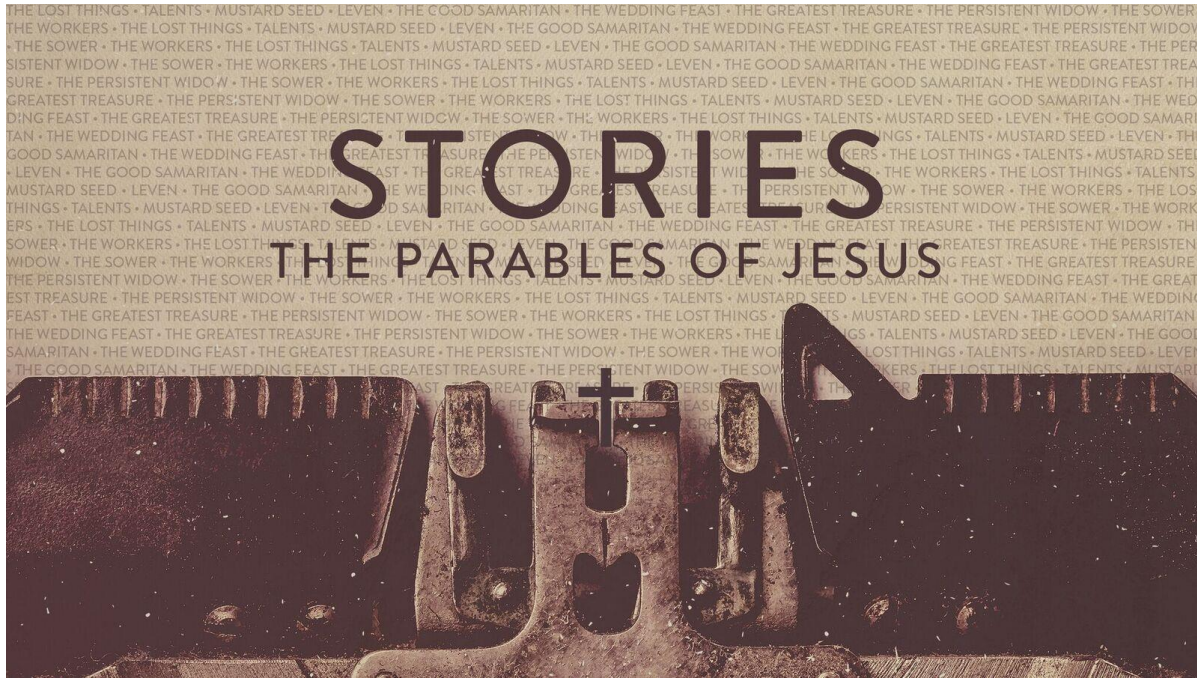


# STORIES



## God's Love for the Missing

### Reading Plan

Week 1

April 1, 2018

## Day 1

**READ:** Luke 15:1-10

**REFLECT:** Contrast the Pharisees' attitudes toward "sinners" with the stories Jesus tells. What is the heart of Jesus for the lost? How does this change your perspective of yourself and others?

**PRACTICE:** Praise Jesus for His love for you and for all people. Ask Him to give you eyes to see the lost as He sees them- precious, loved, longed for.

### TAKE IT FURTHER!

**READ:** An article from The Gospel Coalition, "God's Heart for the Lost". <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevin-wax/gods-heart-for-the-lost/>

**REFLECT:** Who are the lost in your life?

**PRACTICE:** Pray for three people who are lost: Ask God to give you a heart of compassion for them. Ask God to give you opportunities to share the hope of Jesus with them.

## Day 2

**READ:** Luke 15:11-19

**REFLECT:** The father in the story allows the younger son to make his own choices about how he lived his life. How do we, like the younger son, try to live life without our heavenly Father?

**PRACTICE:** Confess to your Father areas of your life where you have run away, tried to live life without Him. Accept his forgiveness and thank Him for His great love for you. Find someone in your life who can hold you accountable to not returning to those habits/behaviors.

### TAKE IT FURTHER!

**WATCH:** From RightNowMedia, check out this Bible Project, Gospel Series video giving insight into Luke's Gospel and the Parable of the Lost Son:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/181481?episode=4>

(If you need a RNM account, please email [sarah@whoisgrace.com](mailto:sarah@whoisgrace.com))

### Day 3

**READ:** Luke 15:20-24

**REFLECT:** What is the father's response to the younger son's return? Rejoicing and celebrating is a theme in this chapter (verses 6-7, 9-10, 23)- what does this say about a person's worth in the eyes of Jesus? Do you embrace your identity as a son or daughter of God and live accordingly?

**PRACTICE:** How can you show someone that their life has value? Consider what you could do or say to demonstrate God's love for someone today.

#### TAKE IT FURTHER!

**WATCH:** From RightNowMedia- *The Heart of Man* is a cinematic retelling of the parable of the Prodigal Son, intertwined with contemporary and poignant true testimonies of personal and sexual brokenness. Find the movie at <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/267467> .

(If you need a RNM account, please email [sarah@whoisgrace.com](mailto:sarah@whoisgrace.com))

## Day 4

**READ:** Luke 15:25-32

**REFLECT:** How does the elder brother view himself, his father, his brother? Does his attitude reflect the heart of Jesus? Where do you find similarities to the elder brother in your attitude?

**PRACTICE:** Confess your self-righteousness to the Lord- those ways in which you think of yourself as “better” or think of others as “not good enough”. Ask Jesus for a heart like His. Do you need to ask someone for forgiveness because of your attitude toward them? Seek them out and do that.

### TAKE IT FURTHER!

**READ:** You may relate more to the elder brother than the young! Check out this article from The Gospel Coalition, “I Am the Elder Brother”  
<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/i-am-the-elder-brother/>

## Day 5

**READ: John 3:16-17**

**REFLECT:** Who were you before you gave your life fully to Jesus? How did Jesus find you, rescue you? What is life like now that you know the forgiveness, grace, love, hope of Jesus?

**PRACTICE:** Praise God for the gift of salvation in your life. Humbly thank Him for loving YOU so much. Ask Him to give you a heart of love for the lost ones that He longs to rescue.

### TAKE IT FURTHER!

**LISTEN:** Use the audio feature on your Bible app or a Bible website ([www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)) to listen to Luke chapter 15 while you are driving, doing chores, eating lunch. Allow yourself to be caught up in the stories Jesus is telling. Reflect on how precious each one life is to the One who can save them.