

# STILL VALUABLE Bible Study Handout

## Luke 15:8–10

8 “Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!’ 10 Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

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## INTRODUCTION: Understanding the Setting of the Parable

Luke chapter 15 continues with Jesus responding to criticism from the Pharisees and religious leaders. They were troubled because Jesus welcomed sinners and shared fellowship with them. In their view, people who had wandered far from God were no longer worthy of attention or acceptance.

Instead of arguing, Jesus tells a series of parables that reveal the heart of God.

In the first story, a shepherd searches for a lost sheep in the wilderness. In this second story, the setting shifts from the open field into the house. The focus also becomes more personal. Instead of one out of one hundred, the loss is now one out of ten.

This parable teaches us that not all lostness is obvious. Some people are lost far away, while others are lost quietly, even in familiar places.

The message remains the same:

What is lost... is still valuable.

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## KEY TEACHING THEME

The parable reveals three important truths about the heart of God:

- God recognizes what is missing
- God searches with intention and persistence
- God rejoices when what is lost is restored

These truths help us understand both God’s character and our response to His grace.

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## **POINT 1: She Realized Something Was Missing**

Jesus describes a woman who has ten coins and discovers that one is missing. In that culture, these coins were not merely currency. They often carried personal significance and could represent part of a woman's identity or dowry.

This was not casual loss. This was personal.

The first step toward restoration is awareness. The woman recognizes that something valuable is no longer in its proper place.

In the same way, spiritual growth begins when we become aware that something is missing in our relationship with God. Sometimes everything appears normal on the outside, yet something is out of alignment on the inside.

Scripture calls us to examine ourselves honestly. God often reveals what is out of place before He begins to restore it. That awareness is not meant to condemn us, but to draw us back into alignment with Him.

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## **SCRIPTURE FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Psalm 139:23–24

God searches the heart and reveals what is not right within us.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith.

Lamentations 3:40

Let us examine our ways and return to the Lord.

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## **POINT 2: She Refused to Accept the Loss**

After recognizing the loss, the woman immediately takes action. She lights a lamp, sweeps the house, and searches carefully until she finds the coin.

This reflects determination and intentional pursuit.

Lighting the lamp allowed her to see what was hidden. Sweeping the house helped uncover what had been buried. Searching carefully required persistence and focus.

This image reveals the heart of God.

God does not accept people remaining lost. God searches with intention. God shines light into dark places, uncovers what is hidden, and continues the search until restoration takes place.

Throughout Scripture, God declares that He Himself seeks out what belongs to Him. This pursuit is personal and persistent.

In our own lives, God often works in similar ways. He brings truth into our lives, exposes what has been hidden, and moves circumstances to draw us back to Him.

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## **SCRIPTURE FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Ezekiel 34:11–12

God promises to search for His people.

Psalms 119:105

God's Word is a lamp that gives light.

Hebrews 4:13

Nothing is hidden from God's sight.

2 Peter 3:9

God is patient and desires that none should be lost.

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## **POINT 3: She Celebrated When It Was Found**

When the woman finds the coin, she calls her friends and neighbors together and invites them to rejoice with her.

Jesus explains that this moment reflects what happens in heaven. There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

This reveals that restoration brings celebration.

The coin did not lose its value when it was lost. Its worth remained the same. The only thing that changed was its location.

In the same way, every person retains value because they are created in the image of God. Even when someone is distant or disconnected, their value is never diminished.

When restoration takes place, heaven rejoices.

This challenges us to reflect God's heart. We are called to celebrate when others are restored and to recognize the value God places on every life.

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## **SCRIPTURE FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Zephaniah 3:17

God rejoices over His people with joy.

Genesis 1:27

Humanity is created in the image of God.

Luke 19:10

The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Romans 5:11

We rejoice in God through restoration.

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## **KEY LESSONS FROM THE PARABLE**

This parable teaches several important truths:

God values what is lost. Every person matters to Him.

God actively seeks those who are hidden or distant.

Restoration brings joy both on earth and in heaven.

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## **REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

1. What does this parable teach about how God sees those who are lost?
  2. Why is recognizing what is missing an important step in spiritual growth?
  3. How does the image of the lamp and sweeping deepen your understanding of God's work?
  4. Can you identify ways God has been searching for or drawing you recently?
  5. How should this parable shape how we respond to others who are distant from God?
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## **PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK**

Jesus continues with a third parable in Luke 15.

Next week we will study the story of the lost son and explore the journey of returning home and the heart of a Father who never stopped waiting.