

## **Short Stories By Jesus**

### Session 1: Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son

#### **1. Overview of Parables**

1. Parables are stories that are not true, but convey truth.
2. Parables do not have a single meaning.
3. Parables can be interpreted in many ways, but modern readers should always assume the original audience would have been able to find meaning in it.

#### **2. This week's parables**

Read the first two parables:

Luke 15:3-7

Luke 15:8-10

As you read, ask these questions:

1. Who is the protagonist?  
(the character who struggles to overcome a problem)
2. What is the problem? And how is it resolved?
3. What words, images and details of the plot and character stand out?

Before reading Luke 15:11-32: What interpretations, lessons and morals or applications have you drawn from this parable in the past or have been taught to you?

Read Luke 15:11-32

### **3. Watch Video**

Questions about the video:

1. What did you learn about the idea of two sons?
2. We typically refer to the youngest son as the lost son, but how was the oldest son also lost?
3. Parables can teach us numerous things, Dr. Levine saw one lesson from this parable as “making sure everyone is counted”. What are ways we can do that?

### **4. Call to Action**

In the parable of the lost son, the oldest was missing from the celebration, when we look around our community and our church, who is missing? Who are the people that are often overlooked?

### **Closing Prayer**

You know us all, Lord Jesus, and you know those whom we do not. Forgive us when we lose those who are precious to you, by what we do or by what we fail to do. Send us in your Spirit's power to them, that we may rejoice together as children of your Father in heaven, and ours. Amen.