

TITLE

WHERE IS THE COIN?

OBJECTIVE



Understanding God's love for all people.

SCRIPTURE



BACKGROUND

Jesus preached to a wide variety of people. In this story, it mentions tax collectors, sinners, Pharisees, and teachers of the law. The Pharisees and teachers were religious leaders who prided themselves on keeping the Law of Moses and the traditions of the elders. They believed that they were righteous and others were sinners. Tax collectors were hated members of Jewish society. They collected taxes for the Roman authorities, who were seen by the Jewish people as the oppressors. They also would cheat people and steal money for themselves (see the story of Zaccheus). The coin in this Bible story was probably equivalent to a man's wage for one day, meaning it was even more valuable to a woman. The house in the story was likely small and with few windows; it probably had dirt floors and was very dark inside.

MATERIALS

VIDEO - ON DVD OR ONLINE

ACTIVITY SUPPLIES

POSTER BOARD AND MARKERS

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Use the students' answers to your questions to decide whether they understand and meet the given objectives. Explain or illustrate further as needed.

Outline

INTRODUCTION

- Finding what was lost

Details

- Bring a collection of coins (or anything you desire) for each child in the class.
- Hand out the object to everyone except one person (choose carefully who does not receive one).
- Act out your horror/sadness about not having enough, telling them that you counted and were sure that there were enough.
- Begin to search frantically yourself, then invite the students to help (maybe have flashlights available).
- When it is found, celebrate together and talk about how it felt for that one person who didn't receive the item.

STORY

- Read the story
- Have a discussion

Invite students to think of a time when they lost something very valuable to them. What did they do? How did they feel? You could have one or two share their stories or get them to share with the person next to them. Tell them your own story of something precious lost and make the connection to today's story.

Read Luke 15:1-2.

Ask questions for comprehension.

What kind of people were spending time with Jesus?

What is a tax-collector? What is a sinner?

Who were the Pharisees? What surprises you about their attitudes/complaints?

Tell them that Jesus told some stories/parables to make a point to these leaders. Tell them you will ask them about this point at the end of the lesson.

Mention or read the first story (the lost sheep), connecting it to today's story.

Read Luke 15:8-10.

Other Options for Presenting the Story:

1. Show video clip of the story (see additional notes).
2. After reading the story, ask students to tell you who each character represents: Woman (God), 9 coins (religious leaders), lost coin (sinners). Ask, does this mean that the leaders weren't sinners? Ask, what is Jesus' point? What does this story tell us about God? Finish discussion by making sure that students understand God's heart to save and rescue the lost, those not valued by society, and our desire to be like him in this respect.

Outline

ACTIVITIES

Memory verse practice: Luke 15:10 or 19:10 (see additional notes for optional methods).

Choose an activity that is appropriate for the age group (see additional notes for instructions and links).

- dramatization of story
- have a surprise celebration party with party hats etc. (perhaps a child knows someone who just became a Christian or is now coming to church)
- Memory verse on a coin
- Memory verse in a booklet
- puzzle or coloring sheets

Details

CLOSING

- Prayer requests on large poster paper
- Close with prayer and/or song
- Create interest for next week's journey
- Review main elements of the story.
- Ask students to think of people in their own lives who are "lost" and whom they want Jesus to rescue.
- Prepare in advance a poster paper with large block letters: P-R-A-Y. Invite students to fill in the letters with the names or pictures of people that they thought of earlier.
- Give your own students an opportunity to become followers of Jesus.
- Pray for these people either in the whole group or have students break into pairs and share and pray.
- Tell students that next week they will be going on an adventure to learn about some people in another country whom Jesus wants to rescue.

Additional Notes

STORY

[Lost Coin video¹](#)

ACTIVITIES

Memory Verse Practice Suggestion

1. Divide students into two groups and have them stand on opposite ends of the room. Provide memory verse up on the board or on chart paper. One side calls out the first word in the verse, the other side the 2nd and keep going back and forth until the verse is complete. Switch which side you start with the second time.
2. As a class, say the first word of the verse, then the first and second, first, second, and third until the verse is complete.
3. Write the memory verse on the board. Each time the class says the verse, erase one or two key words until there are no words left. Invite whole class and individuals to say the verse from memory.
4. Have class follow you or a student to a location in the classroom. Stop and say the memory verse. Continue on to different locations as time allows, saying the memory verse each time

¹ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZElovSnYZc>

Memory Verse Craft

Have students cover a paper plate with foil. Show them how to use a pencil or other tool to press down and carve out their memory verse in the foil. They can also decorate it with coin emblems

[April's Homemaking²](#) - Memory Verse in a Booklet Idea

[Danielle's Place for Crafts and Activities³](#) - Scroll down for a number of ideas for the Lost Coin Story

[Biblekids.eu Parable of the lost coin coloring and puzzle sheet⁴](#)

² <http://www.aprilshomemaking.com/2011/09/parable-of-lost-coin-craft.html>

³ http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible_themes_o_-_p.html

⁴ http://www.biblekids.eu/new_testament/lost_coin/lost_coin_html/lost_coin_word_seach_puzzle.html