SMITH FOR CHRIST

TEACHING THE WORD · WATCHING THE TIMES

REFLECTION JOURNAL · FIVE DAYS

Luke

Chapter 15

Lost and Found

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 15:20

"So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."

THIS JOURNAL BELONGS TO _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

This week in Luke 15

This week Jesus tells three stories about lost things and the One who goes looking for them. Wherever you are reading from — a far country, a pig pen, or standing just outside the party with your arms crossed — the Father is looking down the road for you, and He runs.

How to use this journal

1. Each day, read the passage slowly — out loud if you can.
2. Answer the **Observe** question from the text before you write what it means.
3. Write honestly on the **Reflect** questions. No one grades this.
4. Do the **Respond** step today, not someday. Say the memory verse.
5. Bring this journal to the group. The last page is for the table.

The full Deep Dive, the O·I·A study and the slides for this chapter are on the Luke study page.

WHERE I AM AS I START THIS CHAPTER

What is going on in my life right now that I want to bring to God this week?

DAY 1 OF 5

He Goes After the One

READ · LUKE 15:1–7

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Who was coming near to listen to Jesus, what did the Pharisees say about Him, and what does the shepherd do when one sheep is lost (15:1–5)?

REFLECT

The religious men grumbled, "This man receives sinners and eats with them" (15:2). When you first came near Jesus, what made you think He would — or would not — receive you?

REFLECT

The shepherd goes after the lost sheep "until he finds it" and carries it home "on his shoulders, rejoicing" (15:4–5). What does it change for you to know that Jesus carries you home glad, not angry?

RESPOND — TODAY

Think of one man who has drifted away from God or from the group, and reach out to him today — not to lecture, just to let him know someone came looking.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 15:20)

DAY 2 OF 5

A Lamp and a Broom

READ · LUKE 15:8–10

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What three things does the woman do to find her coin, and how long does she keep at it (15:8)?

REFLECT

A coin cannot find its way back; it was lost inside the house (15:8). Where have you been "lost" while sitting right in church or in the group, unnoticed by anyone but God?

REFLECT

Jesus says there is "joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (15:10). What would it mean for you to believe that heaven was glad on the day you turned to God?

RESPOND — TODAY

Thank God out loud today for the people He used to "light a lamp" and find you, and if you can, tell one of them.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 15:20)

DAY 3 OF 5

When He Came to His Senses

READ · LUKE 15:11–19

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the younger son ask for, where did he go, what did he end up doing, and what did he decide to say when he came to his senses (15:12–19)?

REFLECT

The son took his share and went to "a distant country" where he "squandered his estate with loose living" (15:13). What was your distant country — the place you went so no one would watch?

REFLECT

He "came to his senses" in a pig field (15:16–17). What was the moment, or the bottom, when you started to see clearly — and how do you see God's hand in it now?

RESPOND — TODAY

Write out your own honest version of the son's words in 15:18 — "Father, I have sinned …" — and pray it to God today.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 15:20)

DAY 4 OF 5

His Father Ran

READ · LUKE 15:20–24

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

What did the father see, feel and do while the son was still a long way off, and what did he give him when he came home (15:20, 22–23)?

REFLECT

The son had a speech ready, but the father ran and kissed him before he could finish it — he never got to "make me as one of your hired men" (15:19, 21). Where are you still trying to earn your way back with God instead of receiving His welcome?

REFLECT

The father called for the best robe, a ring and sandals (15:22). What would it look like this week to live like a son who has been welcomed home, not like a hired man on probation?

RESPOND — TODAY

Read 15:20 slowly three times today, and each time put your own name in the place of "him."

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 15:20)

DAY 5 OF 5

The Son Who Would Not Go In

READ · LUKE 15:25–32

OBSERVE — WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Where was the older son, how did he react to the party, and what did the father do and say to him (15:25–32)?

REFLECT

The older son said, "For so many years I have been serving you" and called his brother "this son of yours" (15:29–30). When have you resented God being kind to someone you thought did not deserve it?

REFLECT

The father "came out and began pleading with him" and said, "all that is mine is yours" (15:28, 31). What does it tell you about God that He goes out to the angry son too?

RESPOND — TODAY

Name one person whose comeback you have been slow to celebrate, and do one thing today to welcome him — a word, a meal, a seat beside you.

☐ READ IT ☐ PRAYED IT ☐ SAID THE MEMORY VERSE (LUKE 15:20)

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS

Questions for the table

FOR THE GROUP · 1

The shepherd, the woman and the father all went looking (15:4, 8, 20). What would it look like for our group to go looking for the men who have stopped showing up?

FOR THE GROUP · 2

Both sons were far from the father's heart — one in a far country, one in the field next to the house (15:13, 25, 28). Which son is easier for you to see in yourself, and why?

FOR THE GROUP · 3

The story ends with the older son still outside and the father still pleading (15:28–32). How would you finish the story, and what would it take for you to go in?

MY PRAYER

Father, I have sinned against heaven and in Your sight, and You still ran to meet me, so today I come home and ask You to…

CUT OUT · CARRY IT · LUKE 15:20

"So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."