Preschool–Grade 6

The Lost Coin

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Every person matters to God. God seeks the lost, and there is joy in heaven when even one sinner repents.
Bible passage: Luke 15:1–10. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." *Luke 15:10 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), 10 paper circles colored gray, a flashlight, a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Hide the 10 gray circles around the room, one of them very well.

1. Opening game: Don't Stop at Nine (5–10 minutes)

Tell the kids there are ten pieces of silver hidden in the room. Turn off some of the lights. Kids search, and each one they find goes on the table. When they have nine, ask: *Nine out of ten is good. Should we stop?* Let them decide. Hand someone the flashlight and keep looking until the tenth is found. Ask: *Why does one missing piece matter?* Say: "Jesus told a story about a woman who would not stop at nine."

2. Bible story: She Sought Diligently (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Luke 15. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

Who was listening. Look up Luke 15:1–2. Publicans (tax collectors) and **sinners** drew near to hear Jesus. The **Pharisees** and **scribes**, religious leaders and teachers of the law, **murmured**, which means grumbled: "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them." **Receiveth** means welcomes. So Jesus told them **parables**, stories that teach a lesson (15:3).

The lost sheep. First Jesus asked what man with an hundred sheep would not leave the ninety and nine and go after the one that was lost until he found it (15:4). When he found it, he carried it home on his shoulders, rejoicing (15:5–6).

The lost piece of silver. Look up Luke 15:8. Then Jesus asked another question: what woman with ten pieces of silver, if she lost one piece, would not light a **candle**, sweep the house, and **seek diligently** (look very carefully, without giving up) till she found it? A **piece of silver** was a silver coin. She didn't say, "I still have nine." She searched for the one.

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Found! Look up Luke 15:9. When she found it, she called her friends and her neighbours together: "Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost." **Rejoice** means be full of joy.

The point. Look up Luke 15:10. "Likewise" (in the same way), there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that **repenteth**, who turns away from sin and back to God. Jesus was answering the grumbling leaders: God wants the lost to come back, and heaven celebrates when they do. Later Jesus said, "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Right after this parable, Jesus told one more about a lost son (15:11–32).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. The woman still had nine pieces. Why didn't she just stop looking? What does that tell us about how God sees one person?
2. The Pharisees and scribes grumbled that Jesus welcomed sinners (15:2). How does this parable answer them?
3. She lit a candle, swept and sought diligently (15:8). What do those three things tell us about how hard God looks for the lost?
4. She called her friends and neighbours to rejoice with her (15:9). Why do you think she wanted others to share her joy?
5. Is there someone at school or church who seems left out or "lost"? How could you show them they matter to God?

Recall questions

1. How many pieces of silver did the woman have, and how many did she lose? *(Ten; she lost one, Luke 15:8)*
2. What did the woman say to her friends and neighbours? *("Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost," 15:9)*
3. Where is there joy when one sinner repents? *(In the presence of the angels of God, 15:10)*

4. Memory verse: Erase a Word (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **likewise** means in the same way, **in the presence of** means right there with, and **repenteth** means turns away from sin and back to God. Read the verse on the board together. Erase two words and read it again. Keep erasing two words at a time until the board is empty and the class can say it alone. Then kids say it to a partner.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The woman searched until she found her one lost piece of silver, and God cares about every person even more. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6), and there is joy in heaven (Luke 15:10). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: find one person who seems left out, and include them. Every person matters to God.

6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Luke 15:1: Who drew near to hear Jesus? *(All the publicans and sinners)*
2. Luke 15:2: Who murmured? *(The Pharisees and scribes)*
3. Luke 15:4: How many sheep did the man have? *(An hundred)*
4. Luke 15:5: Where did he lay the sheep when he found it? *(On his shoulders)*
5. Luke 15:8: How many pieces of silver did the woman have? *(Ten)*
6. Luke 15:8: What did she do to find the lost piece? *(Light a candle, sweep the house and seek diligently)*
7. Luke 15:9: Whom did she call together? *(Her friends and her neighbours)*
8. Luke 19:10: What is the Son of man come to do? *(To seek and to save that which was lost)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that every person matters to You, and that You seek the lost. Help us see the people around us the way You see them, and be glad when anyone comes back to You. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

Teacher note: Jesus told this parable as a question (Luke 15:8). The Bible doesn't say where the coin was lost, what the house looked like, or who the woman was. Keep to what the verses say.

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