

September 13, 2026
Luke 15 | “Parables – Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son” | Pastor Brent Foster

Ice Breaker

- If this is your first gathering of the Fall, take a few minutes to reconnect. What was one highlight of your summer, and what are you most looking forward to this Fall?

Warming Up

- Jesus begins with an experience almost everyone understands: losing something that matters. What is something valuable you have lost? What do you remember most—the sick feeling when you realized it was gone, the search, or the relief when you found it?

Digging In – Read Luke 15:1–32

- Pastor Brent described parables as both “Windows & Mirrors.” As a window, what does Luke 15 reveal about the heart of God and His Kingdom? As a mirror, where do you see yourself in these stories?

- Luke tells us that the Pharisees and teachers of the law were muttering because Jesus “welcomes sinners and eats with them” (vv. 1–2). Why do you think Jesus responds to their complaint with these three stories? What was He trying to expose in them—and perhaps in us?

- The stories intensify: one sheep out of 100, one coin out of 10, and finally one son out of two. The rejoicing intensifies too. What does that progression teach us about the value God places on people who are far from Him? What does it reveal about what brings joy to God’s heart?

- In the lost sheep and lost coin, the shepherd and the woman actively search until what is lost is found. Think about your own story: how has God pursued you and drawn you toward Himself? Who or what did He use—a person, the church, circumstances, Scripture, or the prompting of the Holy Spirit?

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- In the story of the lost son, what detail about the father stands out to you most? What does his waiting, running, embracing, restoring, and celebrating reveal about the heart of our heavenly Father?

- Jesus leaves us with two very different sons. Which brother's posture are you more tempted toward: the younger son's desire to live on his own terms, or the older son's entitlement and contempt? What might repentance look like for each?

- The older brother is physically near the father but emotionally far from his heart. How can someone be active in church, serving faithfully, and still drift from the Father's heart for people who are lost? What warning do you hear for yourself?

Living It Out

- "Rejoice with me" runs through all three stories. Do the things that bring joy to God's heart bring joy to yours? What helps us recover joy when mission begins to feel like obligation, inconvenience, or "one more thing"?

- Pastor Brent used the phrase "Missional Gratitude"—moving from "I have to" to "I get to." Where have you experienced ministry or mission as a privilege? How does gratitude change the way we view sacrifice, inconvenience, or discomfort for the sake of someone else?

- Who is one person in your life who may be "far" from God right now? Without sharing anything that would betray their confidence, what might it look like for you to move toward them with the welcoming heart of Jesus this week?

Prayer – CPR for Your Evangelistic Heart

As you pray, turn the sermon's CPR challenge into three concrete responses:

C. Commit — Who could you intentionally share a meal or meaningful time with? Ask God for one practical next step.

P. Pray — Ask God for a divine appointment this week. Is there someone you could naturally invite to Alpha?

R. Receive — Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with love, courage, wisdom, and power for mission (Acts 1:8).

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Close Together

Consider closing by praying for the people God has placed on your hearts and then saying or singing the Doxology together—placing God at the center and as the author of our story.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son & Holy Ghost
Amen.

