

## Home Group Notes

31 March 2019

Sarah Weldon

**Overview**

The Pharisees condemned Jesus for spending time with people they despised as sinners. In response Jesus told three parables describing the lost people that he had come to call; sinners, yes, as are all people, but still valuable to God. Lost people who need not to be condemned for being sinners but to be given a helping hand to be reconciled to their Father.

The sheep didn't realise he was getting himself lost by the way he was behaving; the coin got lost through carelessness, irresponsibility; the son made a deliberate choice to turn his back on his father and go his own way. The shepherd actively looked for the sheep, the woman actively searched for her coin, but the father respected the son's choice only waiting patiently, lovingly, hopefully for him to be ready to be reconciled.

Having been redeemed by Christ on the cross and being able to say that Jesus is Lord and has been raised from the dead, we are now commissioned by Jesus to be his ambassadors, to take his message of reconciliation to other people – to the lost that we ourselves come across. Using the same tactics that he himself used: compassion, forgiveness, generosity and patience, despising none, not looking on people from a worldly point of view.

2 Corinthians 5: 16-21

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

I looked at the following websites:

Study guide for Luke 15 by David Guzik

[www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik\\_david/StudyGuide\\_Luk/Luk\\_15.cfm](http://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/guzik_david/StudyGuide_Luk/Luk_15.cfm)

Luke 15 commentary by Charles Spurgeon

[www.studylight.org/commentaries/spe/luke-15.html](http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/spe/luke-15.html)

2 Corinthians 5 Bible commentary by Matthew Henry

[www.christianity.com/bible/commentary.php?com=mhc&b=47&c=5](http://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary.php?com=mhc&b=47&c=5)

2 Corinthians 5 commentary by Adam Clarke

[www.christianity.com/bible/commentary.php?com=mhc&b=47&c=5](http://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary.php?com=mhc&b=47&c=5)

I also drew on the following books:

Fishing for the King by James Burn (and foreword by Clive Corfield)

The Challenge of Islam to Christians by David Pawson

Unlocking the Bible by David Pawson

He Chose the Nails by Max Lucado

**Conversation questions**

- If the prodigal son's father loved him so much, why do you think he didn't do more to stop him leaving?
- What do you think of the brother's reaction when the prodigal son returned, and his father was so thrilled about it?
- Can you see yourself in the role of Christ's ambassador?