



The Week of June 13, 2021
Eternal Hope
Conversation Guide

This Week's Take-Aways

- **About Eternity:** (John 14:1-4) I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.
- **I am Confident:** (1 Peter 1:3-5) Because my hope for the future is placed on the steadfastness of God and the trustworthiness of his promises, I live with confidence.

Intro Questions

- What is the most valuable, sentimental, or crazy thing you've ever lost?
- What valuable or crazy thing have you found? What did you do with it?
- Can you describe a time you went to great lengths to retrieve something you had lost or had been taken from you?
- Is there anything still missing that you would love to have back?

The Lost Sheep & Coin

Read Luke 15:1-10 (CSB) out loud (Pay attention! We'll be asking you to re-tell the parables.)

All the tax collectors and sinners were approaching to listen to him. And the Pharisees and scribes were complaining, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable:

"What man among you, who has a hundred sheep and loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open field and go after the lost one until he finds it? When he has found it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders, and coming home, he calls his friends and neighbors together, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found my lost sheep!' I tell you, in the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who don't need repentance.

"Or what woman who has ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, because I have found the silver coin I lost!' I tell you, in the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels over one sinner who repents."

- Have a members of the group retell each of these stories in their own words.
- Thank the re-tellers of the stories and then ask the group if they missed anything.
- What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
- Which of these stories do you relate to the most?
- Are the lost items/people able to fulfill their purpose while lost? Are we able to fulfill our true purpose outside of God?
- (When Jesus shared this parable, the woman's coins would have been sewn onto her headdress. The loss of one of these coins could signify her unfaithfulness in marriage-making the coins loss even more dire!)

The Samaritan Woman

Read John 4:1-30 out loud (CSB)

When Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard he was making and baptizing more disciples than John (though Jesus himself was not baptizing, but his disciples were), he left Judea and went again to Galilee. He had to travel through Samaria; so he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar near the property that Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, worn out from his journey, sat down at the well. It was about noon.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give me a drink," Jesus said to her, because his disciples had gone into town to buy food.

"How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" she asked him. For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.

Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God, and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would ask him, and he would give you living water."

"Sir," said the woman, "you don't even have a bucket, and the well is deep. So where do you get this 'living water'? You aren't greater than our father Jacob, are you? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and livestock."

Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks from this water will get thirsty again. But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give him will become a well of water springing up in him for eternal life."

"Sir," the woman said to him, "give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and come here to draw water."

"Go call your husband," he told her, "and come back here."

"I don't have a husband," she answered.

"You have correctly said, 'I don't have a husband,'" Jesus said. "For you've had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true."

"Sir," the woman replied, "I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews say that the place to worship is in Jerusalem."

Jesus told her, "Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth."

The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

Jesus told her, "I, the one speaking to you, am he."

Just then his disciples arrived, and they were amazed that he was talking with a woman. Yet no one said, "What do you want?" or "Why are you talking with her?"

Then the woman left her water jar, went into town, and told the people, "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" They left the town and made their way to him.

- Have a members of the group retell the story in their own words.
- Thank the re-teller and then ask the group if they missed anything.
- What does this passage tell us about Jesus?
- Jesus offered the woman water that would never run out. In today's culture, what would be the equivalent? (Wifi? Never-draining batteries?)
- In Hebrew culture, people would come early in the morning to draw water to avoid the heat of the day. What time did the Samaritan woman arrive at the well? Why do you think she waited until so late?
- How does the woman's demeanor change as she interacts with Jesus?
- The woman went from hiding from everyone in her town, to running and bringing them all back to hear Jesus. What brought about this change?
- How can we move out of our comfort zone to share with those that are different from us and are lost?
- Jesus was called out by the Pharisees for hanging out with the "wrong people." Are you willing to risk your reputation for the cause of Christ?
- Are any of us too far gone for Jesus to search for us?

Romans 8:31-39 (CSB)

What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He did not even spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. How will he not also with him grant us everything? Who can bring an accusation against God's elect? God is the one who justifies. Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us. Who can separate us from the love of Christ? Can affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

*Because of you
we are being put to death all day long;
we are counted as sheep to be slaughtered.*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- What does this passage tell us about God?
- To what lengths has God gone to bring you back?

Passing It On

Read Deuteronomy 11:18-21 (CSB)

Imprint these words of mine on your hearts and minds, bind them as a sign on your hands, and let them be a symbol on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

- What are some ways that we can share the Good News of Jesus with our children and others younger than us?
- When does this passage tell us we should share God's commandments and the stories of what He has done? What are the modern day equivalents of these times?
- What are some God Stories in your life? Have you shared them with your friends and family?

Next Steps

- Does God's attitude toward the lost provide you any comfort?
- Does God's attitude change your attitude?
- Can you think of people you know who are lost?
- Are **you** lost? Visit <https://icelebration.org/fresh-start> to learn more about starting a relationship with Jesus.

Resources

- [Raising Kids with Faith that Lasts](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/504)- <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/504>
- [Never Too Late: Encouraging faith in your adult child](https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/901)- <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/901>
- [A Better Way to Talk to Your Teenager about Faith](https://www.wretchedtoredeemed.org/blog/2018/1/29/a-better-way-to-talk-your-student-about-salvation)- <https://www.wretchedtoredeemed.org/blog/2018/1/29/a-better-way-to-talk-your-student-about-salvation>
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