

LOST.LOST.LOST.

Luke 15: 1 - 32

BEFORE YOU READ

what do you remember?

Before you just into the story, spend some time discussing whether or not you've heard these parables before. What do you remember about them? What interpretations have you heard about what these parables mean?

AS YOU READ

what do you notice?

Invite participants to listen closely to the text as you read, making note of details you didn't remember in the text, or something you thought was in the story but actually isn't there.

AFTER YOU READ

discuss!

Spend some time discussing the questions to the right.

1. Which one of these parables sticks out to you the most? Is there one you most relate to or find compelling? Why do you think that is?
2. Clarence Jordan once said that when Jesus told parables it was light "lighting a stick of dynamite and covering it with a story."
What do you think would have been so "explosive" about these three parables?
3. The nameless characters in today's parables allow us to write our own names into the story. At some point in life, we have all been lost, or searched for something we deeply cared about. Can you think of a time like this in your own life? Are you in a time like this now? One commentator states of these stories "Our discipleship calls us to a love that searches, a love that waits, a love that rejoices when when something lost is found."

BONUS ACTIVITY

Invite participants to try the ancient practice of "colloquy." This is a way of journaling with scripture, talking with the characters and allowing your imagination to guide you. After the first two discussion questions, invite participants to grab a pen and paper and compose a journal entry for one of the three main characters in the prodigal son parable.

What might they say?

What would their questions be?

How do you imagine Jesus would respond?