

# Seek for Lost Sinners

## MAIN IDEAS

- **Jesus came to seek and save lost sinners.**
- **Jesus wants His disciples to follow His example and look for opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel.**

## MEMORY VERSE

*...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,—1 Peter 3:15*

## SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 15:1-10
- 2) Luke 19:10
- 3) Mark 1:16-17
- 4) 1 Timothy 2:3b-6
- 5) Colossians 4:5-6
- 6) 1 Peter 3:15b



## TEACHER INTRODUCTION

Two short and simple parables, the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin, provide poignant illustrations of Jesus' love for seeking after and saving lost sinners. It is important that our students see and understand the urgency of this truth. Whether saved or unsaved, each student should be challenged in this lesson to see the desperate condition of lost sinners and the need for Jesus' saving work. For those who are disciples of Jesus, we are to share this heart for the lost. Although the term "evangelism" can seem daunting, especially for a child, we want to encourage believing students to think in terms of the ordinary personal interactions they have in their everyday lives—looking for simple opportunities to express the hope that is within them. At a minimum, they can begin to have the unbelievers on their "radar screen," so to speak, and begin to pray for them and grow in boldness and wisdom in ways to share the good news of the Gospel with them.

*Pray that the Holy Spirit would be at work in the unsaved students in your class—that they would see and respond to the love and provision of the Good Shepherd. Pray that the believers in your class would grow in their love and witness to the lost.*

## CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- See Visuals Preparation:
  - › Profession 1-8 (32A-32H)
  - › Tool 1-8 (32I-32P)
- Luke 19:10 (32Q)
- Lost Dog (32R)
- Lost Arrow 1-3 (32S-32U)
- Classroom Handouts for Application:
  - (1 page for 2 students)
  - › Prayer Card (CH-32)
- Growing in Faith Together Page for Lesson 32 (for each student)

## OTHER SUPPLIES

- Bible (English Standard Version)
- Whiteboard and markers
- Optional: Fishing pole (or stick with a string attached to it)
- \$20 bill
- Tape or mounting putty
- Care 1-2 (from Lesson 31)
- Salvation Sign/Love God Most Heart

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**VISUALS PREPARATION**

- **For Option 2**—Hide the **Tool 1-8** visuals in the classroom before the class arrives. During the class, you will give one or more of the **Profession 1-8** visuals to each small group. See lesson text for further instructions.
- **Optional for Small Group Application**—If applicable, be prepared to briefly share your testimony of how you came to salvation through the witness of one or more Christians.

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**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES**

**1. Sharing the Good News Role Playing**

- › Prepare to lead the role play activity. (See Optional Activity section for details.)

**2. Memory Verse**

- › Choose a game or activity from the Appendix.

SUBSTITUTE  
TEACHER  
REFERENCE  
LESSON

## Large Group Lesson

### Activity

#### Option 1

PROFESSION 1-8  
AND TOOL 1-8  
VISUALS

(Choose 16 students to come to the front and stand facing away from the class. Attach one of the **Profession 1-8** or **Tool 1-8** visuals to the back of each student, not telling them the name of their profession or tool. Explain that they are going to play a “seek and find” game. When you give the signal to begin, they are to seek out the student with the tool that most closely corresponds to their particular profession, or the profession that would use their particular tool. The students may help one another, but not remove any of the visuals. Each should stand beside their partner after finding him. Encourage them to do this activity as quickly as possible.)

#### Option 2

REMEMBER: FOR  
THIS OPTION, YOU  
WILL NEED TO HIDE  
THE TOOLS 1-8  
VISUALS IN THE  
CLASSROOM BEFORE  
THE STUDENTS  
ARRIVE.

(Divide the students into equally numbered groups. Hand each group one or more of the **Profession 1-8** visuals. When you give the signal to begin, they should search for the **Tool 1-8** visual that reflects an item their particular profession would need. Give the groups no more than 2 or 3 minutes to find their hidden cards.)

(At the end of either activity, briefly review the correct “seek and find” pairings. Point out that, depending on a person’s profession or interest, he will seek after different things. He will determine what is important for him to do his job or participate in his interest.)

*Jesus, too, is interested in seeking and finding. In the Bible, there are many examples, stories, and parables of this.*

(Have a Sword Drill on Luke 15:1-10. Read verses 1-2, and then choose a student to read verses 3-7 and another student to read verses 8-10.)

**Luke 15:1-2—Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.<sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”**

**Luke 15:3-7—So he told them this parable: “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?<sup>5</sup> And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’<sup>7</sup> Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner**

*who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*

**Luke 15:8-10**—“Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?<sup>9</sup> And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’<sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

WHITEBOARD AND  
MARKERS

(On the **whiteboard**, write the following.)

### PARABLE

Shepherd seeks lost sheep.

Woman seeks lost money.

❓ *Why did the shepherd seek his lost sheep? Why did the woman seek her lost money? [because the sheep was important to the shepherd and the money was important to the woman]*

(Remind the students that parables are pretend stories meant to reveal to us true things about God and about us.)

*What is the true meaning behind these parables? What important truth does Jesus want us to understand? [Jesus seeks after sinners.] In what ways are sinners lost?*

SALVATION  
SIGN, TAPE, AND  
WHITEBOARD

(Point to “Death & Hell” on the **Salvation Sign**. Sinners are “lost” in the sense that they are on their way to death and hell in which they will experience God’s fierce wrath forever.)

❓ *What is the only way that a sinner can be “found” and be saved? [by grace, through trusting in Jesus]*

(Add the following to the statements on the **whiteboard**.)

### PARABLE



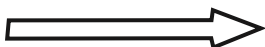
**Jesus seeks after lost sinners.**

Shepherd seeks lost sheep.

Woman seeks lost money.

“For the Son  
of Man came  
to seek and to  
save the lost.”  
Luke 19:10

(Explain that the Pharisees were complaining because Jesus was spending time with sinners. But Jesus wanted the Pharisees to know that this is exactly why Jesus came. He came to seek and save lost sinners. **Tape** the **Luke 19:10** visual below “Jesus seeks after lost sinners” on the **whiteboard**.)

**PARABLE**

Jesus seeks after lost sinners.

Shepherd seeks lost sheep.

Woman seeks lost money.

**“For the Son  
of Man came  
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save the lost.”**

*Luke 19:10*

***Luke 19:10—“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”***

**Illustrations**

(Display the **Lost Dog** visual.)

*If your pet dog ran away, wouldn't you desperately go out looking for him? Of course you would! Any loving pet owner would do that.*

**\$20 BILL** (Display the **\$20 bill**.)

*If you lost a 20-dollar bill somewhere in your room, would you go searching for it everywhere? Yes, of course you would.*

*Lost sinners are millions of times more valuable than any pet or any amount of money. They have been made in the image of God and desperately need to repent of their sin and trust in Jesus so that they may be saved. That is why Jesus told these parables and many others like them. Jesus is in the “seek and find sinners” business. If you are a child of God today, it is because Jesus went seeking you and saved you.*

*And Jesus commands that His disciples join Him in this by following His example.*

(Read Mark 1:16-17 to the students.)

***Mark 1:16-17—Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, [Jesus] saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.”***

- Jesus spoke these words when calling His first disciples.

**?** *What did Jesus mean when He said to them, “I will make you fishers of men”? What do actual fishermen seek after? [fish] How was Jesus changing their job priorities—what were they going to seek after now? [men—all people who are lost sinners and need a Savior]*

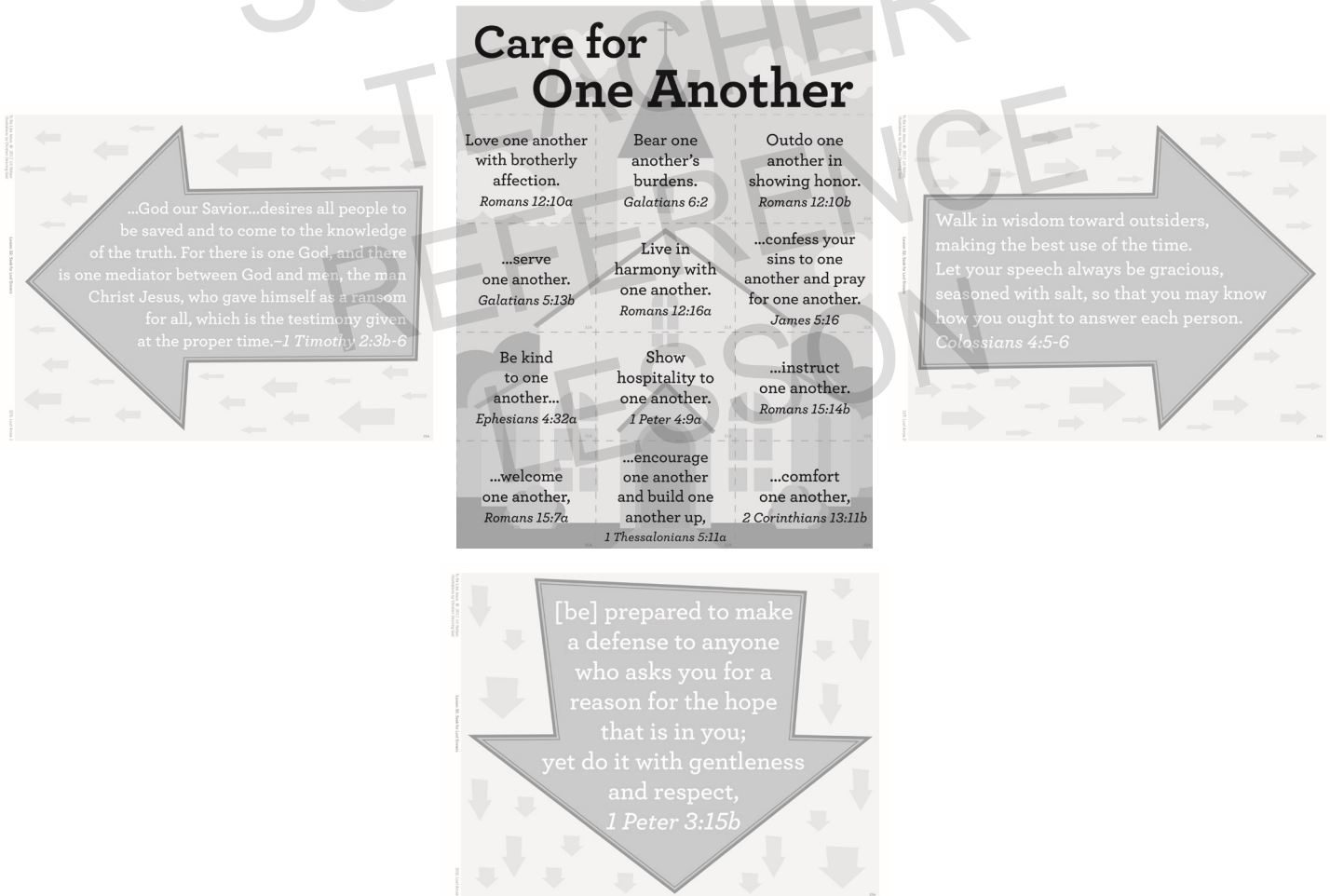
- One important way Jesus grows His church is by His disciples going out and seeking after lost sinners in order to tell them the good news of the Gospel.

## Illustration.

CARE 1-2 VISUAL,  
TAPE, FISHING POLE,  
LOST ARROW 1-3

(Have a student come to the front. Hand him the **fishing pole** and instruct him to let down the line in order to catch some fish. When he gives you a confused look, instruct him to move to a different place in the classroom and try there. Ask the student if this will work. Why not? Even though you have given him the right equipment, he would need to go where fish actually live—in a lake, river, or ocean. Have the student return to his seat.)

(Display the **Care 1-2** visual. Remind the students that the church is the community of God's family, and it includes all true believers in Jesus. Members of Jesus' church are to love one another in a very special way—living in fellowship with one another and caring for one another. But Jesus does not want His disciples to **ONLY** spend time within the church—to spend all of our time with other Christians. Hand three students the **Lost Arrow 1-3**. Have each student read the verse on his arrow. Then, **tape** each arrow along the bottom and side edges of the **Care 1-2** visual so that the arrows point outward from the visual, as shown below.)



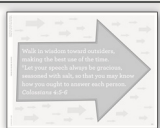




### Lost Arrow 1

**1 Timothy 2:3b-6—...God our Savior...<sup>4</sup>...desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup>For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.**

- God desires that all may be saved—meaning Christians are not to withhold the truth about Jesus from any sinner.
- Jesus has given every one of His disciples a testimony to share—the message of the Gospel.

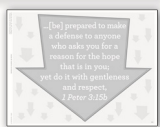


### Lost Arrow 2

**Colossians 4:5-6—Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. <sup>6</sup>Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.**

- “Outsiders” refers to anyone who is not yet trusting in Jesus. Jesus wants His disciples to be wise in the time we spend with them and how we speak to them.
- We need to be gracious in how we talk to unbelievers so that our words will be loving, kind, and true.

*So, for example, suppose you are on a sports team and most of the kids are not Christians. Have you ever thought of how you could use the time you spend with them wisely? Are there things that you could say and do that might help point them to Jesus?*



### Lost Arrow 3

**1 Peter 3:15b—...[be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,**

- Jesus’ disciples should be prepared to share the reason for our hope—good news of the Gospel. Our classroom Salvation Sign can help prepare us to do that.
- We should always be gentle and respectful in our manner when speaking with unbelievers.

*So, for example, what if a neighbor asks you why you go to church every Sunday. Would you have a good answer for that? Or suppose a kid at school asks you why you have a Bible in your backpack. Would you have a good answer for that?*

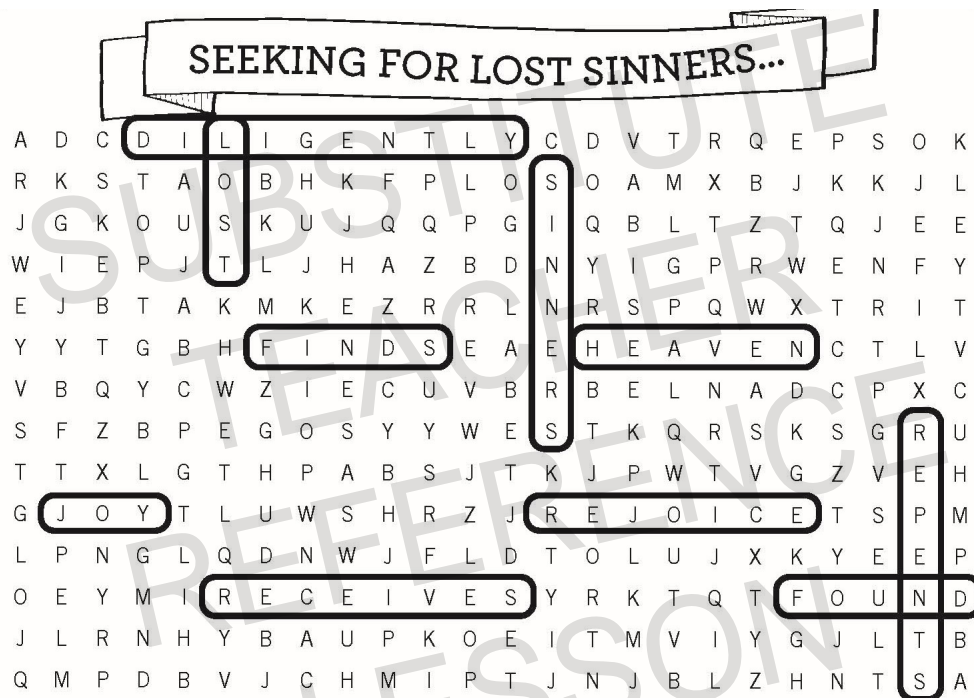
- Jesus wants His disciples to follow His example and love and seek after lost sinners who desperately need a Savior.

## Small Group Application

Choose one or more of the following suggestions for interacting with the students during this time.

## Workbook

Have the students turn to Luke 15:1-10 and use these verses to fill in the blanks in the workbook. Then, find these words in the word search. (See the answer key below.)



*How do you think about people who are not Christians? If your dog got lost, would you care more about the dog or about the kid in your neighborhood who doesn't know Jesus? Why do we often act more concerned with a lost pet than a lost sinner? What does this show us about our hearts? How could we grow in our love for others who are not trusting in Jesus? How might these two parables and other Bible verses and stories serve to help us? Is there someone you are concerned about? Have you thought about how you might "seek after" this person?*

Give each student a **Prayer Card**. Emphasize that they should seek their parents' guidance since they must be very careful about with whom they establish relationships. Have a time of prayer. Be careful to not assume all the students are truly saved. Emphasize that salvation is because of God's grace, and not because anyone has done something good or is better than other sinners. Christians were lost at one time, too. Finally, have them test their recall of the memory verse by filling in the blanks from 1 Peter 3:15.



## Jesus Often Uses His Disciples As a Means of Bringing Others to Salvation

If applicable, briefly share your testimony of how you came to salvation through the witness of one or more Christians. For every student in the class who is not yet trusting in Jesus, he is being “witnessed” to every week. Point out that before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His disciples that they would receive power from the Holy Spirit and be His “witnesses” (Acts 1:8).

*What is a witness? [someone who tells about something that has happened] If you have come to salvation in Jesus, do you have something to tell others about? What specifically should you be telling people who don't yet know and trust Jesus?*

Read and talk about 1 Peter 3:15 and Colossians 4:5-6. Point out that sharing the “hope within you” does not mean you need to share everything about the Gospel in every interaction with a non-Christian. If you are in ongoing contact with another student for example, you can share different things about your faith at different times.

## Looking for Opportunities to Seek After Sinners

Review Colossians 4:5-6 and 1 Peter 3:15. Emphasize that God often brings unsaved people into the lives of His children, whether at work, school, sports events, music activities, etc. “Seeking” does not necessarily mean going out and specifically looking for people with whom to share the Gospel. Jesus’ disciples should also look for the many opportunities given us on any given day. Give the students a few examples and discuss some ways that a Christian could live out these verses. Example: Suppose your cousin wants to know why you and your family pray before eating. How might you respond? Example: The neighborhood kid asks you why you go to church on Sundays. How could you respond in a way that gives a reason for the hope that you have?

## Growing in Confidence in Sharing the Reason for Our Hope

Point out that even for many adults, sharing the good news of the Gospel with unbelievers can feel scary. Sometimes it’s because we don’t think we know enough or don’t know what to say in a certain situation. Other times, it is because we are more shy around others. But we can become better at this.

*What help is available for Christians? [the Holy Spirit, the Bible, prayer, the help of other Christians, etc.] For example, you can watch and pay attention as your parents talk to someone. You can listen carefully to your pastor when he is giving a sermon. You can ask your parents and teachers about how to respond in different situations.*

Emphasize that one simple way to get started is to begin regularly praying for someone you know who isn’t a Christian. Pray that Jesus would be working in his heart. Pray that God would bring him to faith. Ask the Lord for opportunities to share your faith and the power and confidence to do it. Also, be “prepared,” as 1 Peter 3:15 instructs. Review the basic facts of the Gospel with the students using the Salvation Sign as a guide.

## Always Be Gracious and Respectful When Talking with Unbelievers

Ask the students what they might think if their mom served them a delicious piece of pizza using a dirty garbage can lid. Would the pizza all of a sudden lose some of its appeal? Was it because the pizza changed? Review Colossians 4:5-6 and 1 Peter 3:15. Talk about what is meant by “gracious, gentleness, and respect.”

*Can you come up with a situation in which someone might share the Gospel in a disrespectful manner? How might it be received by the person hearing it? Would he or she be more or less inclined to respond favorably?*

### Optional Activities

#### 1. Sharing the Good News Role Playing

Divide the students into small groups. Give each group a scenario in which they are interacting with a person or persons who are not Christians. Then, have the students spend a few minutes discussing how they could live out Colossians 4:5-6 and 1 Peter 3:15 in this situation. Next, have each group share their scenario and their response with the class.

#### 2. Memory Verse

Choose an activity or game from the Appendix.

### Send Home

- Growing in Faith Together Page for Lesson 32 (for each student)
- Prayer Card (AR-32, for each student)