



# PARABLES

STORIES THAT *MESSED UP* RELIGIOUS PEOPLE

## **Series Summary**

For hundreds of years, religious people assumed they had the inside track. Their knowledge gave them access to God and privileges with people. But one day a new teacher took the stage. His stories confused the religious but made sense to the simple. Singlehandedly, this young teacher turned the religious world upside down, never to be the same again. Join us as we study some of his most famous stories that inspired the simple and confounded the wise.

**Sermon summary:** When we lose something of value, our minds are consumed with finding it. We invite those around us to join us in the search. When someone finally screams “I found it!”, cheering is common. In the same way, Jesus is on a rescue mission to seek and save the lost. Each time he does, heaven parties. This Easter, we hope to cause more heavenly parties as lost people are found, and found people realize God found them us not because we are so good, but because He is so good.

**Big Idea:** Jesus came to seek and save the lost.

**Icebreaker:** *What's the most valuable thing you've ever lost?*

## **Discussion:**

1. What about this new *PARABLES* series are you most excited about?
2. Respond to this statement: “I don’t understand all the ins and outs of Christianity or comprehend everything in this 66-book collection we call the Bible, but here’s what I do know – if someone can predict their own death and resurrection, and then walk out of the grave on their own power – I’m with him.”
3. What was the tension in Luke 15:1-2 that caused Jesus to tell the three “lost” stories?
4. Why do you think people who spent their lives being religious disliked Jesus, while those who were nothing like Jesus liked him?
5. Find Jesus’ singular mission in Luke 19:10. How are we supposed to join him in this mission 2,000 years later?
6. How do angels respond when a lost person is found by Jesus? (Luke 15:7, 10) What should this tell us?
7. Instead of looking down on those who don’t believe, how can I view them as people of great value, people Jesus longs to rescue?

**Know:** Those nothing like Jesus liked Jesus

**Be:** Be grateful for Jesus’ salvation

**Do:** Accept and share Jesus; he’s too good to keep to yourself!

# WEEK 1