

Special Lesson - Great Lent

Lesson 3. You Are Precious to God: The Parable of The Lost Coin

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

Bible Reference: *Luke 15:8-10*

Video Lesson: [The Parable of the Lost Coin](#) (duration 1:47)

Class activity: Find a Coin

Activity: The Lost Coin Wordsearch (worksheet on fourth page)

Directions: Hide several chocolate coins throughout the classroom and ask students to find them. Don't have the students eat the coins, but the students hold on to them until Easter, treasuring the prize they have found. Ask the students the following questions after all the coins are found:

1. How did you feel when you found the coin?
2. How difficult was it to find the coin?
3. Would calling for the coin have helped find it more easily? Why not? (*Unlike a lost sheep or son, calling for an inanimate object won't help find it any sooner. The coin does not know that it is lost, like many people in life*)

Items Needed: Chocolate gold coins

Homework Activity:

**Note: Consider encouraging the use of the 2025 Lenten calendar*

Words of the week:

աւել - a-vel - broom

կին - geen - woman

դրամ - tuh-ram - coin/money

Memory Verse:

“There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 15:10

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

**Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տու՛ր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց եւ ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos yev paneets yen kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body:

The Third Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. The name comes from the Gospel reading assigned to this day. Luke 15:1-32 mentions three parables which Jesus spoke. The first parable is about a lost sheep, the second is about a lost coin, and the third parable is about the lost or prodigal son. Each one of these stories tell us about something or someone that was lost then found.

READ FROM THE BIBLE: LUKE 15:1-2, 8-10

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes murmured, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.” So, he told them this parable... “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? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The silver coin mentioned in this story is a silver drachma which would be worth a few pennies in our currency. The parable doesn't describe why those coins were so important for the women. It might have been because for her family those few pennies were extremely hard to earn. For families of that time, the silver coin was more than one day's wages. Its loss could mean that the woman would not be able to feed her family.

There is also a tradition that a bride would receive a special neckless made of silver coins as a gift. Through the years, coins could be added to the neckless or removed to make an important purchase. We can think of this as a saving account or a money jar, that we collect money in for an important purchase. Losing one of these coins was a great loss and very distressing for the woman. Jesus points to the zeal of the woman who diligently sweeps the floor of the dark house under the light of a lamp until she finds it.

Q: Do you have an item that is so precious to you that losing it would cause a lot of sadness? What would you do to find that lost precious item?

Just like those silver coins, important and precious for the woman in the parable, all people are precious to God because of the love He has for us. The lost coin in the dust represents a person who is lost in sin, while the woman represents the Holy Church and the friends and neighbors are the angels in heaven. God always looks for the return of His children who are lost in sin and accepts them back with open arms. Jesus reminds us in this parable, “Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Losing things, especially something that is so treasured and important can be devastating. Most of us have experienced moments where we have lost something. It could even be that sometimes we ourselves feel lost or we have lost someone due to the choices we’ve made or they’ve made.

During this Lenten season, it is important for us to take time to pray and restore our relationship with God who waits for us and will receive us joyfully as His beloved child. To do so, we can use St. Nerses the Graceful’s beautiful *Personal Prayer of Every Christian Believer*.

New Prayer
Personal Prayer of Every Christian Believer

O Lord, you want everything to be good, and you grant every good wish, you are the master of my will; do not let me follow my own will but make me always to follow your good will. Have mercy on your creatures and especially on me, a great sinner.

Words of the Week:

աւել - avel - broom
կին - geen - woman
դրամ - tram - coin/money

Memory Verse:

“There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Luke 15:10

Video Lesson: [The Parable of the Lost Coin](#) (duration 1:47)

Class activity: Find a Coin

Directions: Hide several chocolate coins through the classroom and ask students to find them. Don’t have the students eat the coins, but the students hold on to them until Easter, treasuring the prize they have found. Ask the students the following questions after all the coins are found:

1. How did you feel when you found the coin?
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3. Would calling for the coin have helped find it more easily? Why not? (*Unlike a lost sheep or son, calling for an inanimate object won’t help find it any sooner. The coin does not know that it is lost, like many people in life*)

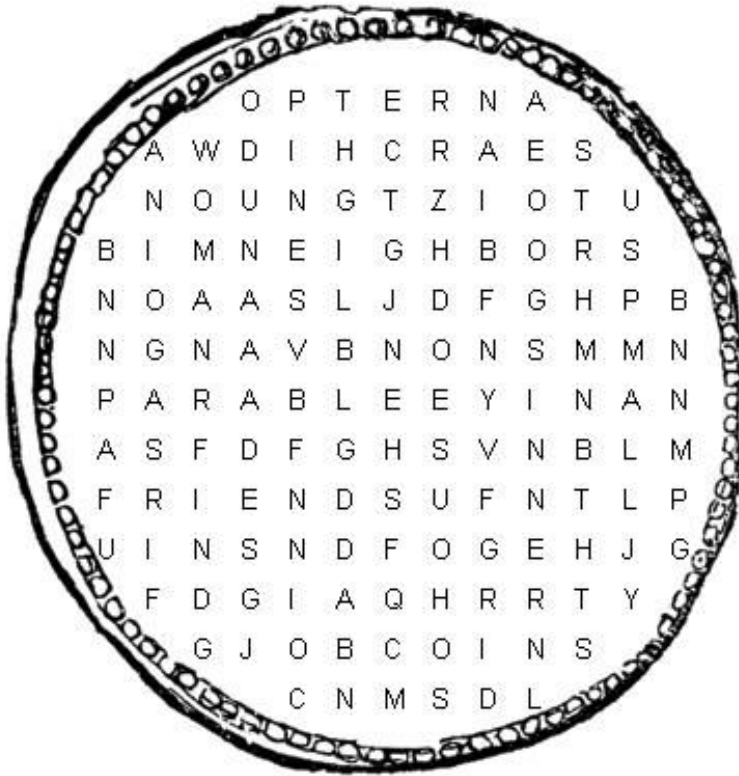
The Lost Coin

Wordsearch



Word Bank

- Woman
- Ten
- Coins
- Lamp
- House
- Friends
- Neighbors
- Joy
- Search
- Find
- Light
- Coin
- Parable
- Sinner



Find the Hidden Word



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Review

Memory Verse Review:

“There is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10)

Lesson Review:

Questions:

1. What happens when the woman loses her silver coin? (She lit a lamp, swept the house and searches until she finds it)
2. What does she do when she finds it? (She invites her friends and neighbors over and rejoices)
3. What does the woman, friends, neighbors, and the coin represent? (The woman is the Holy Church, the friends and neighbors are the angels, and the coin is a sinner)
4. When one sinner repents, what happens in heaven? (there is joy before the angels of God)

Words of the Week:

աւել - avel - broom

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* *Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesher-ee, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.