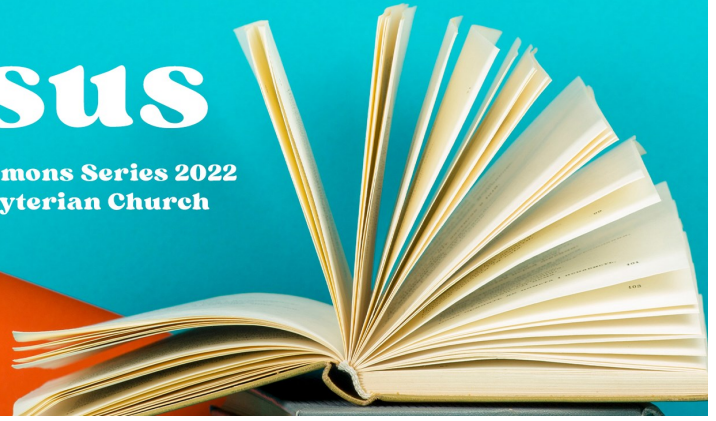


# Stories Jesus Told

Spring Sermons Series 2022  
First Presbyterian Church



## Sermon-based Guide for Reflection and Discussion

### Week of May 29

Scripture: Luke 15:3-10

### Sermon Title: The Lost Sheep / Lost Coin

In the parable of the “Lost Sheep,” the Good Shepherd leaves behind His flock of 99 sheep to go in search of the one lost sheep. If you’re anything like me, it’s easy to identify with the 99 sheep from Jesus’ parable. As Christ followers, we’re grazing in the green pastures of God’s love and grace. We have a watchful Shepherd who provides for us, protects us, and leads us. Life is good when you’re a part of the 99. But as time passes, it’s easy for me to forget what it was like to be the lost sheep. It’s easy for me to forget how dark my life was, how lonely I felt, and how I longed for something bigger than myself.

In Jesus’ telling of the parable, there’s no indication what the 99 sheep were doing as the Shepherd left them in search of the one lost sheep. In my mind, I always pictured them huddled together, feeding on the grass with hardly a care, and completely unaware that just over the hill wandered a terrified sheep who was at the risk of being devoured by any number of predators. Unfortunately, this picture probably reflects my attitude towards lost people.

For just a moment, let’s reimagine what the 99 sheep might have been doing. What if they weren’t joyfully ignorant of the lost sheep’s plight? What if they too showed concern for the lost sheep? What if they put on their little sheep headlamps and huddled around maps on the ground? What if they organized search parties among themselves and joined in on the Shepherd’s audacious rescue mission? Isn’t that a much more exciting picture? I love this parable for its profoundly simple message—lost people matter to God. And if they matter to God, then they should matter to us too. Not only should the Shepherd be concerned about the lost sheep, so should the 99. In fact, at this very moment, the Good Shepherd is searching tirelessly through the dark corners of the world for His lost sheep. If you’re a part of the 99 like I am, let’s resolve to join Him.

- *David Rausch*, Go Tell It Founder and President

### Questions:

1. Describe a time in your life when you felt lost.
2. What does it mean to be the “Lost Sheep”?
3. How are you, or could you be, joining Jesus in searching for “Lost Sheep”?