

## The story of the lost coin

Jesus loved telling stories to get people thinking about what the kingdom of God is like and about how generous God's love is towards us.



This story is very short! Just three verses long; you can find it in Luke 15:8-10.

**Watch together:** Margaret tells this story (with Scruff) on a video, here is the link: <https://youtu.be/YCaBXuhy-DY>

You could also act this story out at home, find 10 coins, ask someone to hide one of them and then tell the story!

**Chat together:** I wonder which part of this story is the most surprising?

I wonder why Jesus chose to tell this story?

I wonder what this story is saying about God?

I wonder what God is saying about us in this story?

The villages in Jesus' day were made up of clusters of one roomed homes made of clay and local stone built around a courtyard and light came through the open door and small window holes. So this story would have been familiar to those around him. The woman had lost something very special and so she searched until she found the most precious thing to her. The image of this woman lighting a candle and sweeping her hot, dusty house and the joy of finding it and her desire to share her good fortune with all her friends reminds us of the promises given to us in this story that in heaven there is much rejoicing when one person turns back to God. This story reminds us of just how precious we are to God.

**Pray together:** You might like to find something that is precious to you to hold while you pray or maybe hold a coin to remind you of the lost coin in the story.

Jesus wanted to show us that God thinks we are really important, really special. God loves us as much as the woman loved her coin. He thinks that we are really precious! Think about the fact that you are precious to God. Maybe you have been feeling a bit lost and far away from God? Tell him how you are feeling and remember how much God loves you, and that when you turn to him he is so happy, just like the woman when she found her coin!

"Dear Lord, thank you that you love us so much, thank you that you think we are wonderful, special and precious. Amen."

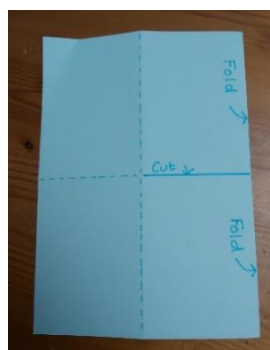
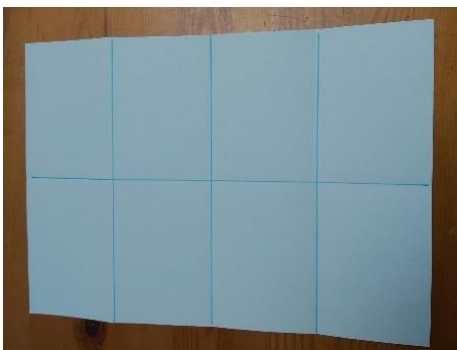
## Activities to do together:

Coin rubbing - find some coins, wax crayons and some paper. Put the coins under the paper and rub over the top of them with the side of a wax crayon until the coin pattern appears. How many different coins can you find?



Can you find? - you will need a dice and some letters in a bag. Take it in turns to choose a letter from the bag and roll the dice, then see if you can find the right number of objects beginning with that letter. So if you pick the letter 'c' and roll a 4 on the dice, you will need to find four things beginning with 'c' eg. a cup, a clock, a cat and a cushion. You might like to set a time limit and then see who can find the items in the allotted time.

Make a simple storybook - take an A4 sheet of paper and fold it into eight. Open out the paper and fold again in half. Cut along the middle line from the fold to the centre as in the second diagram. Open out the paper and fold along the longer middle crease and push the sides together to make a small book!



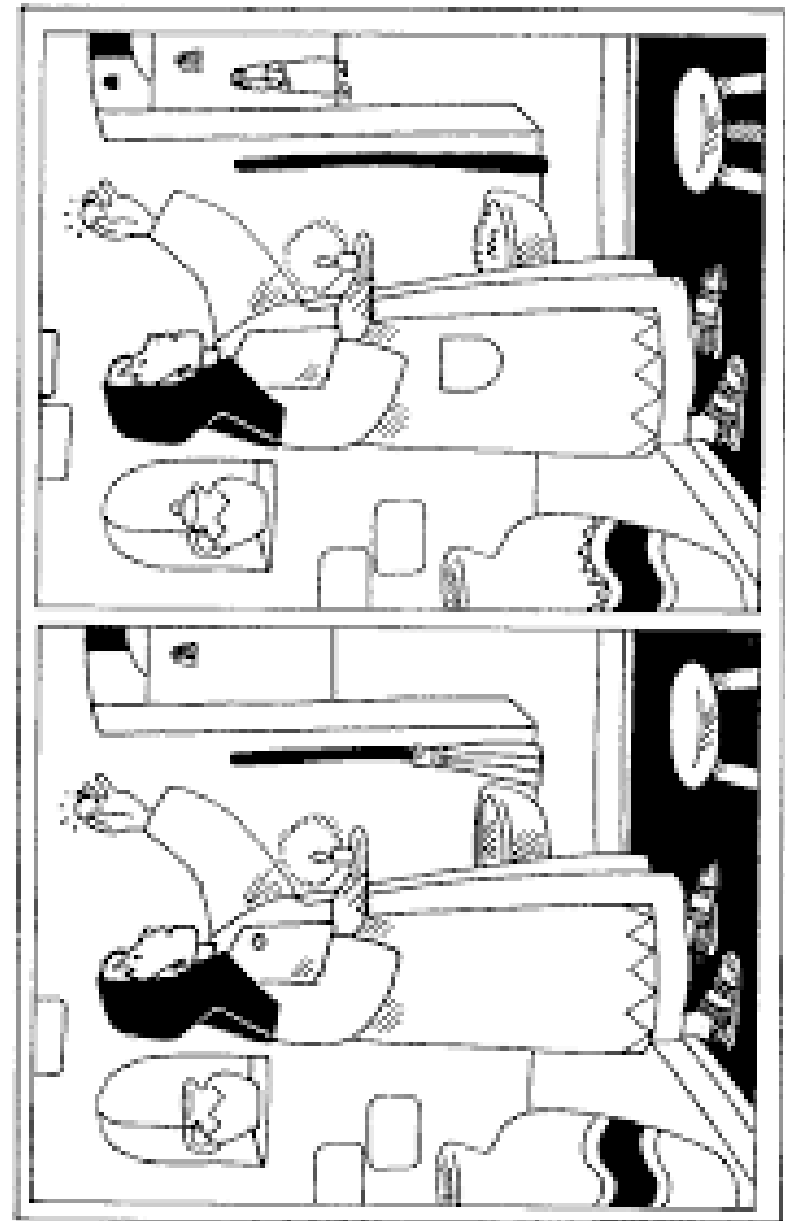
You might like to print off the pictures below, and stick them in the right order in your book, or maybe draw the story. Or maybe you would like to write your own story - like the stories that Jesus told - to tell how much God loves us. Maybe you could make a book to give to a friend?

Make a treasure box - find a small box, some paper, sticky tape or glue. First prepare your box, for example, if you are using a small cereal box, tape the top of the box together and cut along 3 sides of one of the largest faces of the box to create a lid that can lift up. Glue pieces of paper to the outside of the box and then decorate it with stickers or felt pens. Put paper or tissue on the inside of the box and now you have a special box to keep treasures in!

## The lost coin word search

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| l | i | g | h | t | d | o | g |
| o | f | r | i | e | n | d | s |
| s | e | a | r | c | h | e | d |
| t | i | n | a | m | o | w | t |
| o | f | l | b | c | u | i | e |
| r | i | a | v | y | s | m | n |
| y | n | m | p | e | e | w | s |
| z | d | p | p | a | r | t | y |

|       |        |          |
|-------|--------|----------|
| lost  | coin   | house    |
| woman | story  | searched |
| light | silver | lamp     |
| sweep | ten    | friends  |
| find  | God    | party    |



Can you spot 10 differences between the two pictures?

