

## Luke 15

1. Complete this statement: When I think of mission work or evangelism, I think of...
  
2. In Luke 15, Jesus tells 3 “lost” stories. Before he began telling these stories, we learn: “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’” (Luke 15:1-2)
  - a. What is Jesus’ reason for telling these “lost stories”?
  
  - b. Why do you (and I) need Jesus to tell these “lost stories” to us?
  
  - c. What is God’s desire when someone is “lost”?
  
  - d. How does heaven (the angels, the Father, and Jesus) feel when the lost are lost? What do they do?
  
  - e. How does heaven (the angels, the Father, and Jesus) feel when the lost are found? What do they do?
  
3. *If I saw and felt for “the lost” like Jesus does, I would...*

## “Make me more like you.”

God opens our eyes to see those who need him. God fills our hearts with love like his when we see the lost. God opens mouths to share his grace and Good News with others.

1. Read through the following passages.
2. Underline the mission that God has given to us (with whom are we to share Jesus? What should we say?).
3. Circle the phrases and sentences that tell us of God’s heart for the lost (and by his grace, our hearts, too).
4. Write a personal “mission statement” based on these sections from God’s Word.

### Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

### Acts 1:8

[Jesus said]: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

### Matthew 18:15-18

[Jesus said]: “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup> But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup> If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

### Jude 22-23

Be merciful to those who doubt; <sup>23</sup> save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

### 1 Timothy 2:1-4

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - <sup>2</sup> for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and pleases God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

### 1 Peter 3:15

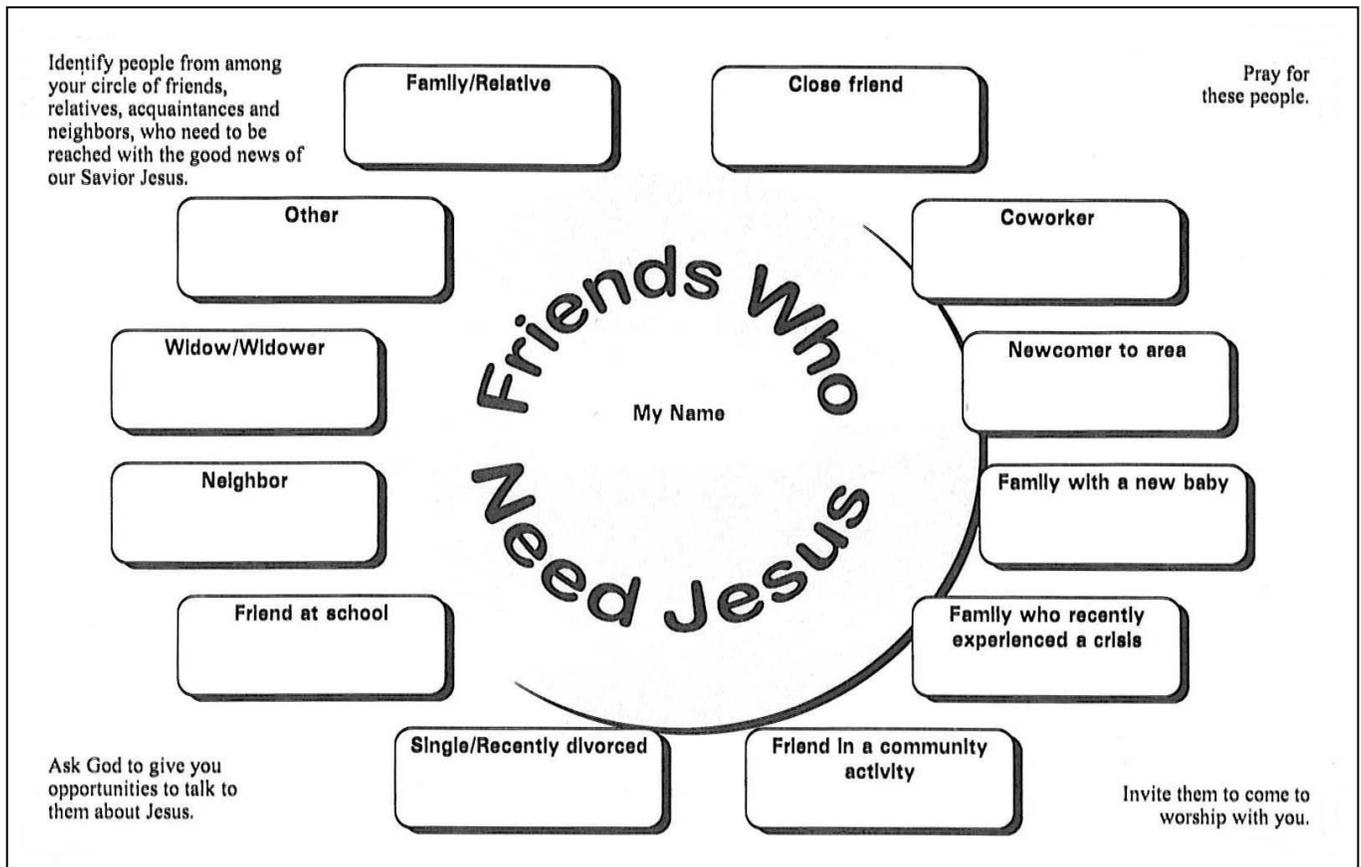
But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

### 2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

## Seeking the Lost

- ⇒ Going to the whole world (all 7.8 BILLION people) with the Good News of Jesus is beyond the ability of any one of us. God has placed us on his “team.” And, as a part of God’s family, you share in the mission of sharing Jesus with the people God has put around you.
- ⇒ With whom exactly could you share Jesus? Along with keeping your eyes and heart open to whatever opportunities God may drop on your path throughout a day, it can be helpful to think of those people God has already brought into your life who need him. Use the little diagram below. *Pray. Identify. Pray. Share. Pray.*



- ⇒ Add one more prayer. Pray for someone you haven’t met yet who needs to hear of God’s grace. Pray for the opportunity, and for open eyes, heart, ears, and mouth.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, Open my eyes to see people without you who need your Word. Open my heart to love them like you do. Open my mouth to share with gentleness and respect, love and truth, the reason for the hope I have in you. Send you Spirit and work through your Word – in their heart and mine. Amen.