

BIBLE BLOCKS

Lost & Found

Parent's Guide

5 STORY BLOCKS + 1 ACTIVITY BLOCK



Meet the God who searches for the lost and invites us all to the celebration.

READ. RETELL. EXPLORE.

Find your place

Select a title or page number to open that page.

Quick start: begin tonight	3
How a Story Block works	4
Meet the Activity Block	5
Retell: tell it together	6
Reflect: notice and respond	7
Character: enter the story	8
Act Out: bring a moment to life	9
Connect: link two Bible stories	10
Four choices on one face	11
Choose your family rhythm	12
Luke 15 in the larger story	13

The five Story Blocks

BLOCK / PASSAGE	BACKGROUND	READ-ALoud
01 Jesus Welcomes Luke 15:1-3	14	15
02 The Lost Sheep Luke 15:4-7	16	17
03 The Lost Coin Luke 15:8-10	18	19
04 The Younger Son Luke 15:11-24	20	21
05 The Older Brother Luke 15:25-32	22	23
Reading carefully together		24

Quick start: begin tonight

One story. Retell together. Choose one activity. A few shared minutes are enough to begin.

1 Set out two blocks

Choose a Story Block and the Activity Block. Open the matching illustrated read-aloud in this guide. You only need the blocks and a few shared minutes. A Bible, plain paper, and something to draw with can be nearby.

2 Hear the story

Read the six short sections aloud while turning to the matching pictures. On the first evening, let your child listen and look. A sentence sometimes continues from one face to the next; read it naturally.

3 Model it, then retell together

Tell the story once in your own words. Pass the block and ask, 'What happened first?' Your child can speak, point, make a sound, finish your sentence, or turn to the next picture. Help them continue without correcting every missing detail.

4 Choose one activity

After Retell, choose Reflect, Character, Connect, Act Out, or one option from the four-choice face. One activity is enough for a visit. The illustrated activity pages in this introduction explain each choice.

5 Close simply

Pray one sentence together: 'Jesus, thank you for welcoming us. Help us share your joy.' Five to ten minutes can be a complete experience. On a short evening, read, retell, and pray.

How a Story Block works



Example: The Lost Sheep. Faces 1-3 across the top; faces 4-6 across the bottom.

Six pictures help a story stay with us

A Story Block gives children pictures to point to, turn, and remember. The pictures do not show every detail in the passage. Read the Scripture alongside them so that the Bible supplies the story and the block supports the telling.

Follow the picture sequence

On each illustrated sheet, faces 1-3 run across the top and faces 4-6 across the bottom. The six numbered read-aloud sections follow that order. Find the matching face on your block as you read. The opening block introduces Jesus' listeners and previews the stories that follow.

Let one picture carry a sentence

In the Lost Sheep block, the pictures help you remember the flock, the missing sheep, the ninety-nine, the search, the carrying, and the shared joy. Invite your child to name an action before asking for a whole sentence.

Return to the same block

Familiarity gives children more room to notice. They may remember only one sheep on the first visit and the shepherd's delight on the next. Read the complete passage when your family is ready, including Jesus' explanation of the parable.

Meet the Activity Block



- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 Retell | Tell the story using its six pictures. |
| 2 Reflect | Draw, color, or write a response. |
| 3 Character | Attend to a person in the passage. |
| 4 Act Out | Make a pose or act out a moment. |
| 5 Connect | Connect this passage with another Bible story. |
| 6 Four choices | Choose Music, Wonder, Prayer, or Find. |

Retell: tell it together

Tell the story together, giving everyone a way to join in. Retell is your starting point each time you gather.



Simple Start

Begin with face one and take turns naming a person or action. Ask, 'What happened next?' Let the pictures guide you. If your child pauses, begin a sentence and invite them to finish it. On a first visit, you can do most of the telling.

Words you can use

'Show me the first picture.' 'Who is looking here?' 'What happens next?' 'Which picture shows that?' Give time for an answer and keep the illustrated read-aloud nearby. A familiar question helps your child know how to join in.

Go Deeper

After several visits, invite your child to lead while you find the pictures. Open the Bible passage, choose a phrase, and say it together. Ask which picture helps them remember it. Look for a detail in the passage that the pictures leave out.

When words are hard to find

Pointing, gestures, sounds, and shared sentences all count as participation. Gently supply a missing detail and keep going. A child might turn the block while you narrate, then add more words on another evening.

Reflect: notice and respond

Respond through drawing, coloring, or a few words. Begin with something your child notices in the story.



Simple Start

Choose one person, object, or moment to draw. Ask, 'Which part would you like to put on your paper?' One shape is enough: a sheep, a coin, a doorway, or open arms. Let your child explain what their picture helps them remember.

Words you can use

'Tell me about your picture.' 'Where does that happen in the story?' 'What did you notice when we read it?' Listen to your child's explanation before adding your own. You can write down a word or sentence they would like to remember.

Go Deeper

Draw two moments that show a change: the woman searching and finding, the younger son hungry and welcomed, or the shepherd looking and carrying. Ask what happens between the two pictures. An older child can add a phrase from the passage.

Keep it simple

Plain paper and something to draw with are enough. Without supplies, trace a shape in the air or point to a detail on the block. Keep a drawing to use during another retelling, or return to it when your child notices something new.

Character: enter the story

Explore the story from one person's point of view. Notice what they hear, say, and do, and how they respond to others.



Simple Start

Choose one person and find them on the block. Describe what they hear, say, or do. Invite your child to begin, 'I am...' and tell one moment from that person's point of view. They can also point and answer as themselves.

Words you can use

'What did this person hear?' 'What did they do next?' 'Who came toward them?' 'What might they have been feeling?' Ask what in the passage or picture helped your child think of that response.

Go Deeper

Compare the person near the beginning and the end. Who speaks to them? What changes? What response does Luke describe? Use 'The passage says...' for stated details and 'I wonder...' for possible thoughts or feelings.

Make participation comfortable

A parent can model one sentence before inviting a child to try. Children can choose the person they want to explore, describe an action, or listen while someone else speaks. A brief exchange can be enough for one evening.

Act Out: bring a moment to life

Explore the story through movement and play. A single frozen pose can help your family remember a whole scene.



Simple Start

Retell first, then choose a moment. Make a pose showing searching, carrying, listening, welcoming, or rejoicing. Say 'Freeze!' and ask someone to find the matching picture. One person can move while another narrates.

Words you can use

'Show me the moment when...' 'What could your hands show?' 'Which picture matches that pose?' 'What happens next?' Take turns choosing the scene and finding its picture. Seated gestures work well too.

Go Deeper

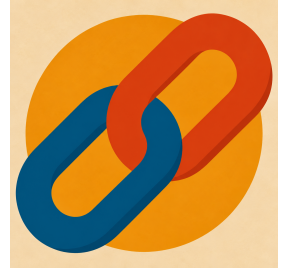
Choose three moments: a beginning, a change, and an ending. Move between them as someone retells. When the passage is familiar, act out its six scenes while a narrator turns the block. Switch roles and notice what each person brings to the telling.

Use the time you have

A freeze-frame takes seconds and needs no props. Save a longer reenactment for another visit if your children want to continue. Act Out often fits a final visit to a familiar block, when children are ready to lead more of the story.

Connect: link two Bible stories

Connect this passage with another Bible story. Look for a shared action, promise, person, or theme.



Simple Start

Place today's Story Block beside one your family already knows. Turn both blocks and ask, 'What is one thing these stories have in common?' Let your child point to a picture or name an action. More than one connection may fit.

Words you can use

'What happened in both stories?' 'Who went looking?' 'Who was invited to rejoice?' 'What is different?' Give your child time to explain. Look back at both passages when you want to explore an idea further.

Go Deeper

Let your child choose a connecting story. Compare the people, events, and responses. Ask what the connection helps you notice about God or the people in the passages. A meaningful connection may begin with something very simple, such as someone going out to find another person.

Reach beyond the set

The connecting passage does not need its own block. Draw on the Bible connections discussed in the parent background. With the Lost Sheep, read Ezekiel 34:11-16 and notice what God promises to do for his sheep. Help your child find both the shared actions and the differences.

Four choices on one face

After Retell, choose Music, Wonder, Prayer, or Find to explore the passage together.



Music

Sing a familiar song that fits the passage, hum together, or give a Scripture phrase a simple rhythm. With the sheep or coin, clap 'Rejoice with me!' Let your child choose a sound for searching and another for finding. To go deeper, build a short song around the story's own words.

Wonder

Invite one question: 'I wonder why...' or 'I wonder what...' Look again at the picture and passage. With the older brother, wonder what he might do after his father speaks. Luke leaves his response open, so your question can stay open too. Give children time to offer their own questions.

Prayer

Begin, 'Thank you, God, for...' or 'Please help us...' A child can add a word, a name, or a sentence, or listen while you pray. After the Lost Sheep, try, 'Thank you for seeking and caring for us.' To go deeper, include people who need care and ask for help sharing another person's joy.

Find

Open a physical Bible to the printed reference. Find Luke, chapter 15, and the verses for today's story. Help a beginning reader point while you read. With the Lost Coin, find the woman's invitation in verse 9. To go deeper, locate a detail that the pictures leave out and add it to your retelling.

Choose your family rhythm

Stay with a story or explore the whole chapter in a week. Let your children help set the pace.

Begin with Retell

Retell each time you gather, then choose an activity that fits your children that day. Each story offers up to eight additional activities: Reflect, Character, Connect, Act Out, Music, Wonder, Prayer, and Find. Music, Wonder, Prayer, and Find each count as a separate activity.

Linger with each Story Block

We usually recommend 3-5 activities per story, spread across several gatherings. You might Reflect one evening, explore a Character the next, and Act Out after the story becomes familiar. Add Music, Wonder, Prayer, Find, or Connect as your family wishes. Retell remains the starting point at every gathering.

Let your children shape the pace

Do more or less depending on how your children are doing. Repeat an activity they love, follow a question for another evening, or move to the next story when they are ready. On a short night, reading, retelling, and a sentence of prayer can be enough. You can return to the same block later.

Explore the whole story in a week

For a quicker journey, use one Story Block at each of five gatherings: Jesus' welcome, the lost sheep, the lost coin, the younger son, and the older brother. Read and retell each one, then choose an activity if it fits. Use another day to revisit a favorite or retell the chapter with all five blocks together.

Keep the chapter connected

Whether you linger or move quickly, use the blocks in order and briefly recall the previous one. The younger son and older brother belong to the same family story. At the end, place the opening block beside the older-brother block and return to the question of welcoming someone who was lost.

Luke 15 in the larger story

The five Story Blocks take your family through one chapter of Luke, beginning with a meal and ending with an invitation to a celebration. Along the way, Jesus helps us get to know the God who seeks people who are missing and is glad to have them home. You don't need to explain everything at once. As the pictures become familiar, children will begin to notice the searching, the welcome, and the joy for themselves.

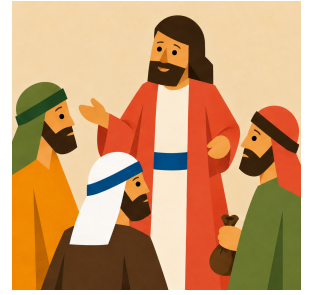
These are familiar themes in the Bible's larger story. Long before Jesus tells this parable, God promises to gather his scattered sheep and describes his love for his people with the tenderness of a parent. Jesus brings that care close enough for people to experience. Those who have been kept at a distance find a place to listen and a hopeful way to begin again.

There is also a place in the parable for people who find that welcome difficult. The father goes out to both sons, and Jesus continues speaking to the people who questioned his meals. Your family may recognize different feelings as you return to the blocks: relief at being found, happiness at a homecoming, or frustration when someone else receives attention.

The background pages offer a little context to help you feel at home in each part. Read one beforehand if that helps, then enjoy the telling together. Children don't need every detail to begin getting to know the God whose care runs through the whole chapter.

Jesus Welcomes

Luke 15:1-3 | Background



Lost & Found begins with people gathering around Jesus because they want to hear him. Some are tax collectors, whose work often brought resentment and opportunities for dishonesty. Others are simply called sinners. We don't know all their stories, but we can see that Jesus makes room for them. His welcome is what gets the conversation started.

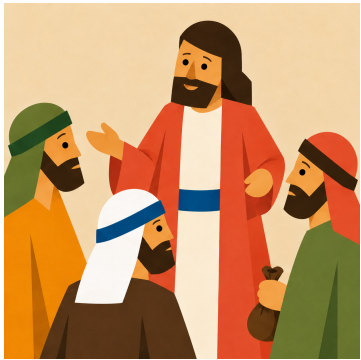
The Pharisees and scribes are troubled that Jesus eats with these people. In their world, sharing a meal was a meaningful way of receiving someone. Think of the difference between greeting a person at the door and inviting them to sit at your table. Jesus is giving these guests his time and company, and his critics wonder whether someone faithful to God should do that.

It helps to remember that Jesus and his critics belong to the same Jewish world. The Scriptures they share speak of God seeking people who have wandered away. Jesus wants his listeners to recognize that care in what he is doing. People can be welcomed while still having much to learn and change; being received gives them a place to begin.

Jesus answers with a parable that unfolds through a sheep, a coin, and a father with two sons. As you tell it, keep the meal at the beginning in mind. Each part helps explain why Jesus is glad to receive these people, and why he hopes others will be glad too. That shared joy is the thread your family will follow through all five blocks.

Come Near and Listen

Luke 15:1-3



Pictures: top row 1-3, then bottom row 4-6. Read the six sections as one short story.

- 1** Tax collectors and sinners were all coming near to hear Jesus.
- 2** The Pharisees and scribes grumbled, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”
- 3** Jesus answered their grumbling by telling a parable. He told them about a lost sheep,
- 4** a lost coin,
- 5** and a father with two sons.
- 6** The parable would reveal the joy of finding and welcoming what had been lost.

The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:4-7 | Background



Most children understand how much one missing thing can matter, even when plenty of others are still there. That familiar feeling is a good way into this part of Jesus' parable. The shepherd has a hundred sheep, but when one is missing, he goes looking. That sheep still belongs with him, and he wants it home.

For people listening to Jesus, a shepherd could also bring to mind God's care. In Ezekiel, God had promised to search for his scattered sheep and bring them back. Jesus' listeners knew that picture from their Scriptures. Now, as people gather around him, he is helping them see what God's promise looks like in everyday life: someone notices who is missing and goes out to find them.

One lovely detail is that the shepherd carries the sheep on his shoulders. Finding it is only part of the work; he also supplies the strength for the journey home. And he is happy to do it. His joy begins while he is still carrying, then becomes something he wants his friends and neighbors to share.

Jesus connects this homecoming with a person turning back toward God. That's a simple way to explain repentance to a child. The shepherd's care helps us see why that turn can be hopeful: God wants us near him. As you read together, give the carrying and the happiness time to register. The sheep matters before it is found, and bringing it home is a reason to celebrate.

Rejoice with Me

Luke 15:4-7



Pictures: top row 1-3, then bottom row 4-6. Read the six sections as one short story.

- 1** Jesus said, “Suppose you have a hundred sheep
- 2** and lose one.
- 3** Wouldn’t you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness
- 4** and search for the lost sheep until you find it?
- 5** When you find it, you joyfully put it on your shoulders and carry it home.
- 6** Then you call your friends and neighbors: ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ In the same way, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who turns back to God than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.”

The Lost Coin

Luke 15:8-10 | Background



This time, Jesus takes us into a home. A woman has ten silver coins and discovers that one is missing. Losing one coin out of ten could be a real loss for a household. Even with the others safely there, she wants to find this one, so she lights a lamp, picks up her broom, and begins to search.

The lamp and sweeping help us picture the care she takes. She brings light into the room and looks where a small coin could easily disappear. Parents may recognize something familiar here: the patient searching that happens when something important goes missing at home. Jesus uses this ordinary work to help people understand how closely God attends to those who are lost.

It's also worth giving the woman her full place in the telling. Jesus has just pictured a shepherd searching outdoors; now a woman searching in her home helps us see that same care. Her actions carry the story, and her happiness when she finds the coin is something she wants her friends and neighbors to enjoy with her.

The coin can't find its own way back, which brings the woman's care into focus. Jesus then speaks of a person turning toward God and the joy that brings in heaven. Together, those pictures offer a reassuring thought to share with children: we matter to God even when we have lost our way. His care gives us somewhere to turn, and our return brings him joy.

She Searched Until She Found It

Luke 15:8-10



Pictures: top row 1-3, then bottom row 4-6. Read the six sections as one short story.

- 1** Jesus continued, “Suppose a woman has ten silver coins
- 2** and loses one.
- 3** Doesn’t she light a lamp,
- 4** sweep the house, and search carefully
- 5** until she finds it?
- 6** When she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I lost!’ In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God’s angels over one sinner who turns back to God.”

The Younger Son

Luke 15:11-24 | Background



The younger son wants his share of the family property so he can leave and make a life elsewhere. In this setting, that request would have been deeply hurtful. He is asking for what his father can give him while choosing life apart from him. His father lets him go, even though the separation costs him dearly.

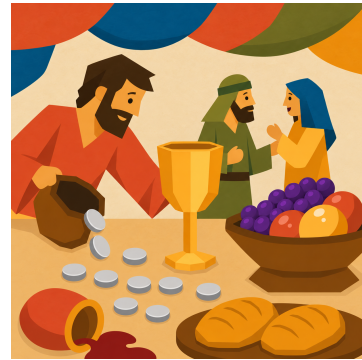
When the money runs out and a famine comes, the son ends up hungry and feeding pigs. For Jesus' Jewish listeners, that work would have made his distress especially clear. He remembers that even his father's hired workers have enough to eat and decides to go home. He plans to admit what he has done and ask for work. Like many people beginning again, he doesn't yet understand how much welcome is waiting for him.

His father sees him coming and runs to meet him. In a world where a father's dignity mattered, his eagerness to reach this son is striking. He embraces and kisses his son before hearing the prepared speech. The son can tell the truth about his wrongdoing within a welcome that has already begun.

The robe, ring, sandals, and feast make that welcome visible to everyone in the household. The father is receiving his son as family. The money is still gone, but someone he loves is home. As you tell this part, let children enjoy the surprise of that reception. The father's happiness helps them imagine a God they can come to, even when they have much to put right.

His Father Ran to Meet Him

Luke 15:11-24



Pictures: top row 1-3, then bottom row 4-6. Read the six sections as one short story.

- 1** Jesus continued, "A man had two sons.
- 2** The younger asked for his inheritance, and his father divided the property between them. He left home,
- 3** wasted everything, and became hungry when famine came.
- 4** Feeding pigs, he remembered his father's workers had plenty to eat. He headed home, planning to ask for work.
- 5** While he was still far away, his father saw him, felt compassion, ran, embraced, and kissed him. 'Father, I have sinned,' he said.
- 6** His father called for the best robe, ring, sandals, and a feast: 'My son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!'"

The Older Brother

Luke 15:25-32 | Background



The celebration sounds very different to the older brother. He has been working in the field, and when he discovers why there is music and dancing, he feels angry and refuses to go in. Many children will recognize something of his feeling: it can be hard to watch someone else receive a big welcome when you feel your own efforts have gone unnoticed.

His father comes outside to speak with him. This is an important detail to notice together. Earlier, the father ran toward the younger son; now he leaves the party to reach the older one. Refusing to join a family celebration could be embarrassing for a father in this setting, yet he makes room for his son's hurt and asks him to come in.

The older brother talks about years of work and obedience, as though he has had to earn his place. His father answers by reminding him that he is his child, always with him, sharing in what he has. He also gently brings the brothers back together in his words. Where the older son says 'this son of yours,' the father speaks of 'your brother.' He hopes they can be glad together that someone they love has returned.

Jesus never tells us whether the older brother goes inside. You can leave that question open when you read with your child. The father's invitation is still there, and so is his love for this son. Welcoming the younger brother hasn't used up the welcome available to the older one.

The Father Went Out Again

Luke 15:25-32



Pictures: top row 1-3, then bottom row 4-6. Read the six sections as one short story.

- 1** The older son came from the field
- 2** and heard music and dancing.
- 3** A servant said his brother had returned safely and his father had prepared a feast.
- 4** Angry, he refused to go in.
- 5** His father came out and pleaded. "I've served you for years without disobeying," he complained. "You never gave me a party with my friends! But you celebrate for this son of yours!"
- 6** His father replied, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. We had to celebrate: your brother was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."

Keep the passage close

Read the chapter as a whole

The five blocks follow one connected parable in Luke 15. Keep the brothers within the same family story, so both receive their father's attention. When you reach his final appeal, look back at the people who questioned Jesus' welcome. Their complaint helps explain why sharing joy matters throughout the chapter.

Let the passage guide the background

Cultural context can help us understand what a shared meal, an inheritance request, or a father's public conduct might communicate. These insights are most useful when they illuminate Luke's account. Families can appreciate the setting while leaving room for details we aren't told, such as the purpose of the woman's coins.

Let each image make its contribution

The sheep is carried, the coin is found, and the son returns and confesses. Each picture helps us see something about God's care and our response. The repeated invitations to rejoice also ask us to consider our place among the people who hear about a return and decide how to receive it.

Keep mercy and honesty together

The father's welcome gives the younger son room to confess, and his appeal gives the older son room to reconsider his resentment. Help children see how grace makes honesty and change possible. Avoid assigning siblings fixed roles as the good or bad child; all of us can need help receiving and sharing mercy.

Use the pictures as memory cues

Clothing colors, the owl coin, and doorway confetti are the artist's choices to help children remember. The six-part narratives are shortened retellings, with the passage reference at the top of each page. As your family becomes familiar with them, read the full passage to hear the details the short versions cannot include.

Give the ending time

Children may want to imagine what the older son does next, and Wonder offers a place for that conversation. When retelling, finish with the father's words, where Jesus finishes. Returning to the open ending can help your family think together about receiving mercy and learning to share God's joy.