

Luke 15:3-7

## The parable of the lost sheep

*Then Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents and asks for forgiveness than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

Jesus told this story to help people understand how much celebration there is in heaven when one sinner repents. To repent means we let God know how deeply sorry we are for sinning and we ask for forgiveness. God loves the people He created so much.

In the Bible it says, "...to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). God wants everyone to become part of His family and to spend eternity in heaven with Him (1 Timothy 2:3-4, 2 Peter 3:9). Anyone who has not asked God to forgive their sins is like a lost sheep. God keeps hoping that they will notice that He is looking for them (Acts 17:27-28).