

**April 25 – May 1, 2009**  
**LOVE, ACCEPTANCE, AND FORGIVENESS**

In this lesson you will learn that Jesus always showed love, acceptance, and forgiveness. You will learn that it is time to move from religion to relationship.

- I. Jesus accepted everyone.
  - A. People tend to be cliquish and have a club mentality that excludes some people – people who are different than them. They want an exclusive club for members only.
  - B. Luke 15:1-3 – The tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Jesus and the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, “This Man receives sinners and eats with them” – v.2. Jesus received them, welcomed them, and actually ate with them.
  - C. Jesus shattered that mentality because He spent time with those who were not part of the religious group. It is time to stop pointing out people’s faults, condemning them, and judging them.
  
- II. Jesus shares three parables – Luke 15:4-24.
  - A. The lost sheep – Luke 15:7 – “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”
  - B. The lost coin – Luke 15:10 – “Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”
  - C. The lost son – Luke 15:24 – “For this my son was dead and is alive again, he was lost and is found.”
  
- III. What happens when people experience the true love, acceptance, and forgiveness of God?
  - A. We help them receive the love of their heavenly Father, even if they have been rejected by an earthly father.
  - B. They will experience God’s love, and there will be a security in their life that enables them to respond to difficult situations with triumph.
    1. You empower them with divine security for the rest of their life.
    2. If God loves them and is for them, who can be against them?
  - C. Guilt, rejection, and shame come off their life, and they begin to experience stability and confidence.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- What kind of heart do you have for the lost?
- When was the last time you had a meal with a sinner?
- How has God’s love, acceptance, and forgiveness changed your life?

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

This week move from concern to action, prayer, and contact with the unsaved. Be like Jesus who received them and ate with them. Share time with them and accept them.

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:** Luke 15:7 – “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”