

Grace Guide



MARCH 9-15

“Between Lost and Found”

MONDAY
3/9

ISAIAH 53:1-12

The prophet Isaiah writes, “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way.” To be between lost and found is first to admit that we have wandered. The season of Lent invites honest confession: not just that the world is broken, but that we have each chosen “our own way.” Yet this same passage tells us that the Lord laid on the suffering servant the iniquity of us all. We are not found because we corrected our path perfectly, but because Jesus stepped into our lostness and carried it himself. Between lost and found stands the cross, the place where our wandering meets God’s redeeming love.

1. Why is it difficult for us to admit that we might be lost, even in small matters of faith and obedience?
2. What would it look like this week to trust God’s way over your own in one concrete situation?

TUESDAY
3/10

EZEKIEL 34:11-16

Through the prophet Ezekiel, God declares, “I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out.” This is a remarkable promise. The people had been scattered by poor leadership and their own sin, yet God does not wait passively for their return. He searches, rescues, feeds, and binds up the injured. Between lost and found is not a cold wilderness but the active pursuit of a shepherd who refuses to abandon his flock. Lent reminds us that we are not only those who wander, we are those whom God seeks. Even in seasons when faith feels thin or distant, God is nearer than we think, already moving toward us.

1. Where in your life do you most need to experience God as the one who seeks and rescues?

2. How have you experienced God pursuing you in the past?

WEDNESDAY
3/11

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

The apostle Paul writes that “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.” Between lost and found is not merely a return to where we once were, but the beginning of something entirely new. God does not simply retrieve us, he reconciles us. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. That means our lostness is not the final word: grace is. And then comes the next step. Those who have been reconciled are entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation. Found people become bridge-builders. Lent reminds us that we stand in the space between what we were and what we are becoming, called to live as ambassadors of the very mercy that found us.

1. Where do you need to believe that God is truly making you new rather than merely improving you?

2. What does it mean for you personally that God is “not counting” your trespasses?

THURSDAY

3/12

JOHN 10:11-18

Jesus declares, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” Between lost and found stands not only a searching shepherd, but a sacrificing one. Jesus does not rescue from a safe distance; he steps into danger, confronting sin and death so that the sheep may live. Unlike the hired hand who runs when trouble comes, Jesus remains. Lent draws us into this costly love, a love that knows us fully (in our failings and brokenness) and still chooses the cross. We are found because the shepherd refuses to abandon us, even when finding us costs him everything.

1. Where do you sometimes struggle to trust that Jesus will remain with you in difficulty?
2. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has laid down his life and what does that say to you about his love for you?

FRIDAY

3/13

PSALM 119:169-174

This very long Psalm is broken into sections, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The psalmist ends the last verses of the last section with a humble confession: “I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant.” Even in a psalm devoted to loving God’s law, the writer admits to wandering. Faithfulness does not eliminate the possibility of getting lost. Between lost and found is a cry, an honest prayer rising from one who still longs for God. The psalmist trusts that the same God who gives commandments also gives mercy. Lent teaches us to pray like this: not pretending perfection, but asking to be sought, taught, and delivered once again.

1. How comfortable are you praying, “I have gone astray,” to God? Why do you think you feel the way you do?
2. What is, for you, the relationship between obedience and grace?

**SATURDAY/
SUNDAY
3/14-15**

LUKE 15:1-7

Jesus tells a simple story that everyone in his day would have identified with. A shepherd who leaves ninety-nine sheep in the wilderness to search for the one that is lost. When he finds the lost one, he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing. Between lost and found is relentless pursuit and overflowing joy. The shepherd does not scold the sheep, he carries it home. Jesus reveals a God who celebrates restoration more than he condemns wandering. And heaven itself rejoices over one sinner who repents. Lent invites us to see ourselves in the story, not among the self-satisfied, but as the one carried by grace and welcomed with joy.

1. How do you identify with the lost sheep? How do you identify with the 99?

2. What does Jesus mean that all heaven rejoices over one sinner? Why not over the faithful? How do you react when a sinner is brought into the fold – do you rejoice or are you hesitant or even skeptical or do you often have some other reaction?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

“I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

(Luke 15:7)