



# Welcome to the INVITE Churchwide Campaign!

Week Three: Verify Their Spiritual Condition

Luke 15

The lost sheep (verses 3-7)

The lost coin (verses 8-10)

The lost younger son (verses 11-24)

The lost older son (verses 25-32)

## Stages of "Lostness"

### Cynic

**Key Characteristic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your THEMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Actions:** Find out the source of their hostility. Empathize. Help them rethink their reaction.

### Skeptic

**Key Characteristic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your THEMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Actions:** Discover their doubts. Try to answer questions. Point them to resources like [www.AnchorCourse.org](http://www.AnchorCourse.org).

### Spectator

**Key Characteristic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your THEMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Actions:** Get them to think about ultimate issues: life's purpose, life after death, and the need to settle things before the crisis hits.

### Seeker

**Key Characteristic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your THEMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Actions:** Ask questions designed to identify barriers keeping them from trusting Christ. Encourage them to cross the line of faith.



List the various things that might cause the “check engine” light to come on in your car. Would the mechanic treat every one of these problems in the same way?

Like a mechanic, we have to understand the different ways people can be lost and make an accurate diagnosis.

Today is the third week in our study through the “INVITE Strategy.” We’re learning how to connect with others so they might connect with Jesus. Complete the following blanks:

I \_\_\_\_\_ your THEMs  
N \_\_\_\_\_ a relationship with THEM  
V \_\_\_\_\_ their spiritual condition  
**Involve** THEM with your church family  
**Tell** THEM your story  
**Encourage** THEM to cross the line of faith

On the first week, the key word from Scripture was “look” (John 4:35). Last week, the key word from Scripture was “love” (1 Thessalonians 2:8). This week the key word from Scripture is “lost.” In Luke 15, there are different ways that things got lost in the four stories Jesus told.

Read Luke 15:3-7. Pastor Tom suggested that the lost sheep represents those who are lost through *personal carelessness*. Describe someone you know who is lost through a series of small personal choices that eventually puts them a long way away from where they need to be spiritually.

Read Luke 15:8-10. Pastor Tom suggested that the lost coin represents those who are lost through *someone else’s carelessness*. How can the actions of parents, peers, and professors negatively affect someone’s consideration of Christianity?

Read Luke 15:11-24. Pastor Tom suggested that the lost younger son represents those who are lost through ***deliberate rebellion***. If/when you strayed from the right path, how did God bring you back?

Read Luke 15:25-32. Pastor Tom suggested that the lost older son represents those who are lost through ***self-salvation efforts***. He was dutiful enough, and yet felt that his father *owed* him something for all his proper behavior. By the end of the story the father had to go *out* to try and reach his older son. Answer these questions:

How can self-salvation efforts cause us to miss the salvation offered by Jesus?

When it comes to convincing someone of their need of God, which is harder: the “younger brother” who is involved in deliberate rebellion, or the “older brother” who is involved in religious activities?

According to the four stories in Luke 15, there are various ways to be lost. So, we have to identify *why* someone is lost in order to direct them to God. Pastor Tom suggested we distinguish between the ***cynic***, the ***skeptic***, the ***spectator***, and the ***seeker***. Use your sermon notes to answer the following questions:

### The Cynic

What is the key characteristic of the cynic?

Describe someone you know who fits in this category.

How should you handle spiritual conversations with someone at this level?

## The Skeptic

What is the key characteristic of the skeptic?

Describe someone you know who fits in this category.

How should you handle spiritual conversations with someone at this level?

## The Spectator

What is the key characteristic of the spectator?

Describe someone you know who fits in this category.

How should you handle spiritual conversations with someone at this level?

## The Seeker

What is the key characteristic of the seeker?

Describe someone you know who fits in this category.

How should you handle spiritual conversations with someone at this level?

As you share prayer requests today, be sure to include the names of your lost friends and family that you discussed today.



Close with praise reports and prayer requests

**Study Notes:**

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