

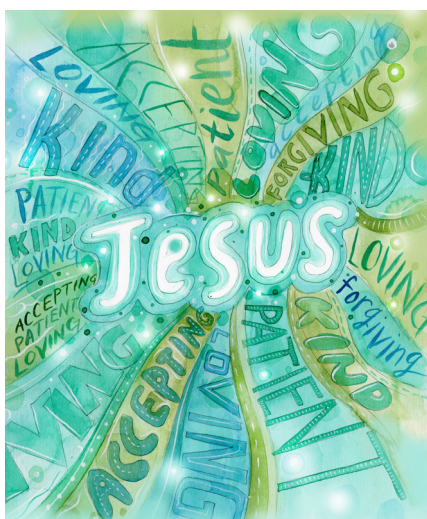
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-10

## Worth finding

Paul thanks God for his favour and mercy by calling him to ministry despite being the worst sinner of all. If God can change Paul's life, he can change anyone's.

Both the Epistle and Gospel readings this week speak of the lost being sought and found. We have a God who loves to seek out the lost because we are worth finding – a cause for celebration!

Read this week's passages:



## Write

Write your name on a strip of paper; then cover it with both hands and pray:

You are not hidden.

*Lift one hand.*

Thank you, God, that we are all special.

*Lift the other hand.*

Thank you that we are all found by you. Amen.



## FIND



Take a mobile phone or other GPS device and have a go at geocaching. Find out more at [geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com)



## Read

Read Luke 15:1-32. Create a three-sentence monologue as if you were either the shepherd, the woman, or the father after they had found what they were looking for. Their joy is meant to help us remember the joy God feels when we are part of God's family.



Find more free Roots resources to reflect on this week's theme:

## Living Scripture

'Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.' 1 Timothy 1:15

Can you remember losing something important - perhaps your wallet, a wedding ring, or a child in a shop/crowd? Remember that moment of panic, desperation, the frantic search?

In Luke 15, Jesus tells stories of a lost coin, a lost sheep, and a lost son, and the moment of rejoicing when they are found. In 1 Timothy, Paul tells how he was lost in his wrong beliefs and violence, but God came to find him with grace and mercy to set him on a different path.

Jesus' stories help us understand how precious we are and how much God wants us found and restored. God values each human life enough to stop everything and search, sending Jesus to save us even when we were at our worst. Jesus came, not just for the worthy souls, the bright and best, but for even the worst of sinners - murderers like Paul. Paul's story helps us reflect on what it feels like to be found: it was us who wandered away, in our poor choices, but still God seeks us out and saves us. Allow yourself to feel how much God values you and seeks you out. Will you open your heart to him now?

## First impressions

- How does it feel when you find a lost, treasured item?
- How did you find God – or God find you?
- How can we show people in our community that they are precious to God, and to us?



## Pray

Thank you, Jesus, that, even when we go astray, we are worth finding and you want us to be part of your flock. Please help us to be the best we can be, living how you want us to. Amen.



## WATCH

Watch the movie *Despicable Me* and create a ranking of who the most terrible villains in the film are. The writer of the letter to Timothy talks about being a terrible person until they are changed by Jesus.