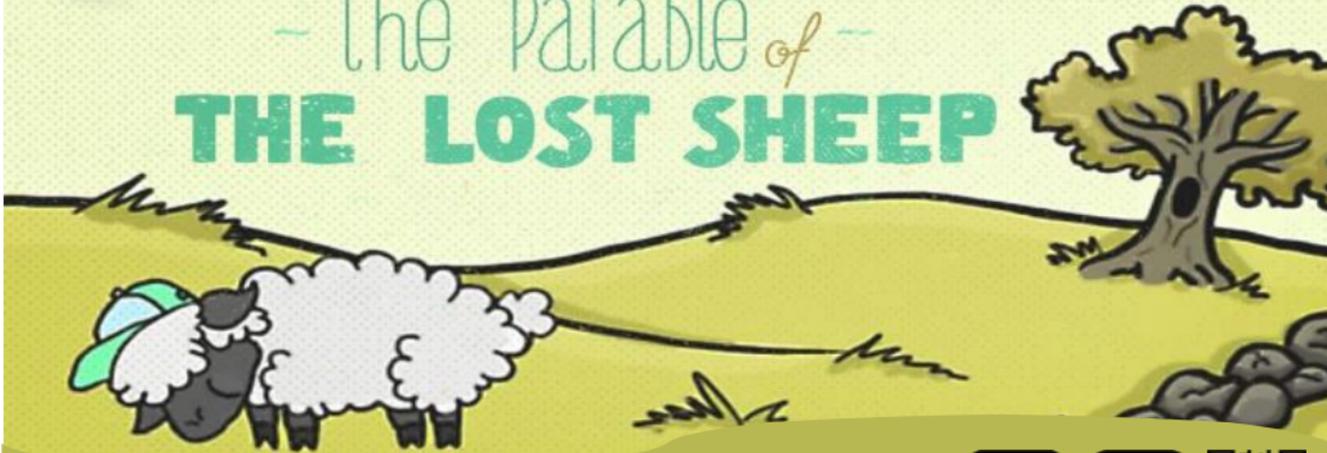


## KEY VERSE:

'Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep.'  
*Luke 15:6*

# - The Parable of - THE LOST SHEEP



**THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER**  
Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World  
Charity Number: 1146043



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# FOUNDATION CAFÉ SERVICE

4th September, 2016

## The Parables: The Lost Sheep



**CHALFONT  
ST. PETER  
PARISH CHURCHES**

## KNOW WHAT:

- Today we start a new 6 week series on parables Jesus told.
- A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly truth.
- Today's parable can be found in Luke 15: 1–7.
- It tells us about a good shepherd leaving most of his flock safe to go and find a lost sheep. When the sheep is found the shepherd celebrates with his friends.

## SO WHAT:

- Jesus is a Good Shepherd (John 10:11) who cares for his sheep. He loves us even when we go away from him.
- Jesus wants to lead us to be part of his flock.

## NOW WHAT:

- We can always return to Jesus if we have wandered away.
- Let us try to walk where Jesus leads, confident that he will look after us.



## LUKE'S LETTERS:

It's always a new year. Whether it's a calendar year, tax year, academic year, or something else, I feel like it's always a new year.

The problem is that because there's always a fresh start or a new year I keep giving myself excuses for not having managed a previous resolution or life change. I always convince myself that I have a chance for a clean slate coming up soon so I'll wait until then to change.

The reality is that because of that I never make those changes. Or if I do then I start them half-hearted – I can always have another go.

The same is true of life with Jesus, we can always go to him for a fresh start. The same danger is there as well, we can undervalue it because it's always available. A German minister called Bonhoeffer called this 'cheap grace'.

Perhaps it's time for a clean slate today, and this time I am going to try to take it seriously. No more cheap grace, just an earnest attempt to walk with Jesus, knowing that he is there to help me.