

**Sermon Title:** "Stories with Intent: Understanding Parables"

**Main Idea:**

The main point of the sermon is to help you understand what Jesus' parables are and how to benefit from them. The goal of this message is to help you read the parables in Luke 15 with fresh eyes and be transformed as a result.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What do you know about the stories in Luke 15? In what ways have you been challenged by these stories in the past? How is familiarity with these stories helpful? In what way can it potentially make it more difficult for us to benefit?
2. What are some of the "wrong" ideas about parables that were addressed? In what ways are those ideas incomplete?
3. What are parables?
4. How does a parable function like 'glasses' helping us see the world differently?
5. What does it mean when the sermon says that parables "sneak in through the back window" to challenge our views?
6. What were Jesus' parables primarily about? Why is that important to keep in mind as you study them? Explain the following quote: "What's unique about Jesus is that he's not just a teacher trying to communicate ideas through these communication means. These parables serve a very specific purpose, which was to explain what he was doing and how he saw himself as central to what God was doing in the world through Israel."
7. What does the sermon suggest are the reasons behind Jesus speaking in parables?
8. What were the different themes of the parables that were mentioned in the parables? Can you think of different parables illustrating each theme?
9. What steps were laid out for understanding and benefiting from a parable?
10. What were some of the ways that this sermon about parables can help us as we approach Luke 15 specifically?

**Sermon Notes:** This is a place you can record your own notes and thoughts as you listen to the message today so that you can think about them later.