



2025 LOST AND FOUND

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‘Lost Things’ - An All-age drama for Education Sunday 2025

Location: The Lost Property office

The premise: Three parallel episodes mirror the three ‘lost things’ stories from Luke. As each episode is presented in the drama, the story from Luke is read from the pulpit. Some of the dialogue and the final prayer draw out broader themes.

Actors/Readers: 4 people.

- Tony
- Wanda
- Wes
- Orla

Preparation

1. Set up a sign indicating the Lost Property office
2. Place a mobile phone amongst the congregation and have the number for this phone on fast dial on another phone (This phone will be held by Tony)
3. Wanda needs to wear glasses
4. The Lost Property office needs something resembling a football match programme.
5. If there is a PowerPoint for the service, audibility might be helped by having the drama script on the screen
6. Find readers for the three passages from Luke as well as readers (actors) for the drama

LOST PROPERTY OFFICE

Proprietor: Anthony (Saint)

For all your lost property needs:

- Rummage amongst lost items
- Donate lost items you have found
- Discuss search strategies with our team of experts

The script

Tony: Hello, my name is St Anthony – but you can call me Tony – I am well known for helping people find lost things

(Wanda enters)

Wanda: Hello, my name is Professor Wanda Whereitiz, but you can call me Wanda. I am best known as an expert in statistics, although my colleagues say I am an expert in leaving my belongings in strange places. Which is statistically very common amongst the general population.

Hello Tony – me again - can you help me find my glasses, my phone and my keys. What I can tell you is that statistically these are the most commonly misplaced items.

Tony: The glasses are easy – you’re wearing them. The phone is easy – what is its number

Wanda: says number (use a made-up number for the script)

(Tony dials (the real number). It rings somewhere in the congregation)

Tony: There you go, another satisfied customer (phone retrieved). Keys are trickier. The only thing to do is to retrace your steps and look carefully everywhere you have been

Wanda: So, I had them when I arrived because I drove here, I chatted to several people welcoming us at the door, I chatted to the organist/pianist/band leader/music box operator (adapt as appropriate) to see how statistically rare or common the hymns for today are.

Organist/pianist/band leader/music box operator (adapt as appropriate): Ah – I have your keys, you must have left them with me when you shared your considerable expertise with me earlier.

(Keys retrieved)

(From the pulpit or up on the screen or both):

Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin’.

Wanda: Thanks, Tony – every week you give me reasons to be cheerful – you are the best finder of lost things I know. I sometimes think it is almost worth losing things to experience the joy of finding them again.

(Wanda leaves. Wes enters.)

Wes: Hello, my name is Rev Wes Itgon, but you can call me Wes. I am best known for my complete collection of Exeter City (insert local team) home game programmes; sadly, the dog has just eaten the programme for the last match of the 1974 season.

Tony: If you have so many, what's so special about this one?

Wes: I can't have every programme except 1! It's like a football team with a player missing; no one wants to be down to just 10. This is my life's work; my life would be incomplete without this one.

Tony: Would you like to rummage around in my Lost Property Office – I have lots of tickets, programmes and memorabilia found on trains, on buses, in the pockets of lost garments, lost handbags. You'd be surprised what people lose, or leave, or forget.

(From the pulpit or up on the screen or both):

‘Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’

Wes: I've found it – I'm glad there's someone like you, Tony, who gathers up lost things.

(Wes leaves. Orla enters.)

Orla: Hello, my name is Dr Orla Lone, but you can call me Orla. I'm lost. I know where I am, but that's about all I know. I'm lost because I've made so many mistakes, and I don't know which way to turn or which road to travel next in order to put things right.

(From the pulpit or up on the screen or both):

“There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So the Father divided his property between them.

The younger son set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, he came to his senses, he said, I will go back to my father and say to him: Father, I am no longer worthy to be called your son; at least accept me as one of your servants.’ So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. The father said, ‘We must celebrate and be glad, because my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found’.

Tony: Finding lost people is the hardest thing of all. When people are lost, they need other people to help them find their way. (To Orla) If you are lucky, this place you have come to is the right place to be, and these people are the right people to be amongst.

A prayer for Education Sunday 2025

Lord God

We lose things all the time

Our sense of humour, our sense of proportion, our sense of the value of things

Teach us to know what is of value and to hold it close

Lord God

We look for lost things all the time

Lost dreams, lost relationships, lost faith

Teach us to keep looking and to recognise you, in the jewels that we find

Lord God

We find your love every day

In the people we meet, in the sharing of stories and the growing in faith

Teach us to be communities where people can find the compassion that they seek

Amen

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