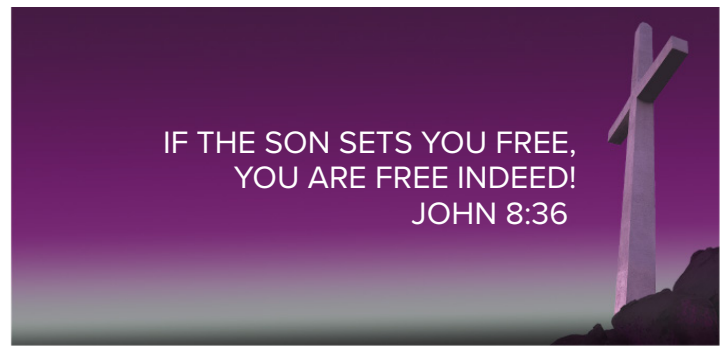


# Jesus IOI

## “Grace Thoughts”



A short devotional to help get you excited about Jesus!

*“Or what woman, if she has ten silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?” –Luke 15:8*

Have you ever lost something really valuable to you? I remember several years ago when someone lost their wedding ring. It was a very simple ring, made of an inexpensive material, but it had the couple’s names and wedding date engraved on it and meant an awful lot to them. We looked for it in every possible place, including a large trash dumpster. We took all its content out and meticulously combed through every piece of trash. I don’t even recall where the ring was ultimately found, but I do remember the intense search.

When the Pharisees were grumbling against Jesus because He was receiving sinners (Luke 15:1, 2), Jesus told them three parables. In Luke’s narrative style, the first two parables are a man-woman pair. The man who loses a sheep is followed by the second parable of a woman who loses a coin (Luke 15:8-10). She loses one of her ten *drachmas*, which were silver coins with an approximate value of one day’s wage. These coins would have been her savings for a rainy day. Some argue that this was part of her *ketubah*, her dowry, which would be the only money she brought into the marriage and her only financial safety in case of a divorce. In this parable, the woman represents God’s passionate search and recovery of sinners; God is the active Agent portrayed in the four stages of recovery in the parable. First, the woman *initiates the search*. Second, she employs *every resource* she has available, such as using a lamp, sweeping the house, and searching carefully. Third, she perseveres, *until* she finds it; not giving up *until* the recovery is successful. Fourth, she has a celebration of joy for the recovery. God passionately searches for us, using infinite resources that we don’t know anything about. If you have a wayward child or grandchild, may you find great comfort in knowing that God doesn’t give up on us *until* He recovers what is lost. This is the true biblical picture of God: His passionate *search for us*. Our search for God is only a response; His search for us precedes our search for Him.