

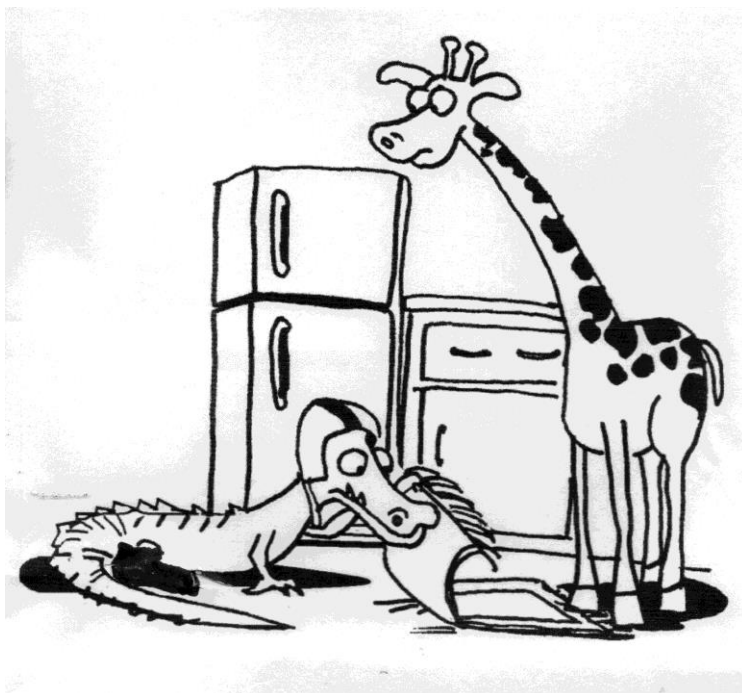
## Story 10. Crocosmile's Sore Foot

"It's going to be a bad day," thought Crocosmile. "I've lost a gold coin and I've got a sore foot." Crocosmile didn't like losing money – no matter how much it was worth.

While she was searching, Wombrat came to her house. "What are you looking for?" he asked.

"A gold coin," answered Crocosmile as she poked her long nose under the carpet to search for the coin.

"Why bother looking? You've got plenty of money. Forget it. Don't waste your time," said Wombrat as he went on his way.



"I don't like losing money. I've had to work hard to earn it – and it's a waste to lose it," said Crocosmile as she searched under the bed, behind the sofa, in the kitchen and in her garden. She even searched around her motorbike in case she dropped the coin when she went for her morning ride.

Cupine dropped in to visit. "What are you doing?" he asked.

"Looking for a lost coin," she said as she limped around the room sweeping the floor.

"Don't worry about it," said Cupine. "Here let me give you a dollar and then you can take me for a ride on your motorbike."

Crocosmile would not take Cupine's coin and kept on searching. "I don't need the money," she told Cupine. "It's just that I don't like losing anything. If I say it's all right to lose a gold coin, next I'll say it's all right to lose my motorbike and then that it's all right to lose my house. I think we should always look for things we have lost."

Soon after, Dog arrived. She also thought it was a waste of time looking but she agreed to help. "I have a very good nose. I'm sure I'll be able to sniff it out."

Dog sniffed under the table, on top of the table, under the chairs and all through the kitchen cupboards. The coin was not to be found. "Can't find it," said Dog. "Let's go for a ride on your bike."

"No," said a determined Crocosmile. "I will not stop looking until I find it."

Later on, Geelaugh screeched to a stop in his new violet car. "Come in. Come in," pleaded Crocosmile. "I need your help."

Geelaugh was just what Crocosmile needed. An animal that could look on top of her cupboards, on top of her shelves and on top of the high window sills.

“I don’t think I’ll find it up high, said Geelaugh. “If you dropped it, the coin would fall down – not up. It must be on the floor.”

“I’ve searched the floor. So has Wombrat, Cupine and Dog. It’s not on the floor,” said Crocosmile as she sat down to rest her sore foot.

Then Geelaugh suggested, “Why don’t you ask Happypotamus to help. She doesn’t like losing things either – and she’s very good at searching.” Crocosmile staggered out to her motorbike and sped around to Happypotamus’ house.

“How nice of you to visit,” said Happypotamus. “Come inside and have a cup of tea.”

“I want you to help me,” said Crocosmile. “I’ve lost a gold coin. I want you to help me find it.”

“Ok, but first we’ll have a cup of tea,” said Happypotamus as she plugged in the kettle. “Dog is good at finding things. Cupine doesn’t worry if he loses things. Neither does Wombrat, unless it’s chocolate.”

So Crocosmile sat down and gulped her tea. She was in a hurry to get back home to search for the lost coin. When she stood up her foot was very sore. It was hard for her to walk.

“Before we go I want to tell you a story,” said the kindly Happypotamus.

“Many years ago, there were a lot more sheep living on my farm than there are now. In fact there were exactly 100 sheep. As the sun was setting I would count them. One night there was one missing. The sheep were very worried and asked me to help find their missing friend. Her name was Woolly.”

“I’m not very good with numbers,” said Crocosmile as she limped around the room. “If one was missing then I think you must have counted up to 89.”

“No silly, I counted to 99. Just one was missing. I had to find it,” said Happypotamus.

“Did you find it? How did you find it?” asked Crocosmile.

“Well, the next day I asked Dog to help me search – just like you’re asking me,” replied Happypotamus.

“I asked Dog to help, but she couldn’t find my coin,” said Crocosmile.

“Dog did find my lost sheep. She sniffed for hours and then she found poor Woolly. Come and I’ll show you where we found her,” said Happypotamus.

Crocosmile walked over to the window. Her foot was very sore and she was limping badly.

Happypotamus looked out the window. “Up there, in those rocks. That’s where she was found. And don’t you remember - we had a big party to celebrate? All the sheep came to the party – all 100 of them. They were so happy to have found their missing friend.”

“I remember that party. But you won’t find my coin up there in the rocks. Let’s not worry about lost sheep. We must find my gold coin,” said Crocosmile as she limped to her motorbike.

The ride back to Crocosmile’s house was very fast and exciting. Happypotamus had trouble staying on the back seat, but she hung on tightly and enjoyed the ride. Crocosmile limped into her house, Happypotamus close behind.

“Now I think it will help if you remember the last time you had the gold coin,” said Happypotamus. “Can you remember?”

“Yes,” replied Crocosmile. “I went to the bedroom and put on my helmet but I knocked my handbag over and all the coins fell out. Then I put on my boots and picked up the coins. It was then that I found one was missing. Perhaps we should look in my bedroom again.”

“Don’t bother,” said Happypotamus with a big grin on her face. “I think I know where to find the lost coin.”

“You do? Where?” asked a very excited Crocosmile.

“Crocosmile,” asked Happypotamus. “How long have you had that sore foot?”

“Since this morning. But forget my foot. It will get better. Where is my coin?”

“Take off your boot. The one on your sore foot,” said Happypotamus.

Crocosmile was angry that Happypotamus was more interested in her sore foot than finding the lost coin but she undid the zip and pulled off her boot. Out of her boot dropped a shiny gold coin.

Crocosmile hugged Happypotamus saying in a very happy voice, “You’ve found my coin AND you’ve fixed my sore foot. Thank you.”

“We must remember not to be wasteful. It’s important to look for things we lose,” said Happypotamus.

“Yes and I must remember that if you have 100 sheep and lose one, then you have 99 left,” said Crocosmile.

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## Source Notes and Discussion

### Story 10. Crocosmile’s Sore Foot

**Parable of the Lost Coin: Luke 15: 8 - 9**

**Parable of the Lost Sheep: Matthew 18: 10 - 14; Luke 15: 4 - 6**

Two stories for the price of one! Both can be used to highlight the importance that God places on seeking and saving those who are lost - and the rejoicing that takes place when the lost is found.

