

The Lost Sheep and Lost Coin

Luke 15:1-10

September
Week 4

4



Teacher Background

What Happens: Jesus tells two stories, called parables, to teach a deeper truth. In one, a shepherd loses his sheep and goes to find it. In the other, a woman loses her coin and searches until she finds it. Jesus told these stories to show that Jesus looks for us.

Why It Matters: Kids sometimes don't feel very important or valuable. But Jesus told these stories to show how valuable each person is to him. Show your kids how much Jesus values them and wants to be with them.

Think About: What's the most important thing you ever lost? What did you do to try to find it? When you think about Jesus looking for you like that, how do you feel?

Pray for kids to be open to Jesus finding them.



Point

Jesus looks for us.



Key Verse

"We love each other because he loved us first."

1 John 4:19

QUICK TIP

Sometimes you may encounter a child who can't stop talking. As a small church, you have a little more wiggle room on how much time each child takes, but if you have a particularly long-winded kid, wait for the child to take a breath and then say something like "I'd love to hear more about that later, but I also want to hear from Hannah."

This Lesson at a Glance



WHAT HAPPENS	KIDS DISCOVER
CHECK IN Connect about the week.	The importance of friendships at church.
SET THE STAGE Share about a topic related to the lesson.	The connection between their world and the Bible.
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE Look for lost items.	How much Jesus values them.
HANDS-ON DISCOVERY Count the total number of squares in a grid.	Jesus never gives up on us.
PLAY A GAME Play a sheep version of Marco Polo to gather lost sheep.	Jesus joyfully welcomes us.
PRAY TOGETHER Spin in circles and pray about feeling lost.	Jesus comes to find us even when we <i>feel</i> lost.

EASY SUPPLIES

- o Bible
- o 3 cotton balls
- o coins or other small items
- o paper
- o pens
- o "Counting Squares" handout (1 for every 2 kids)
- o pens or pencils (1 for every 2 kids)



CHECK IN (5 MINUTES)

- Thank kids for coming and have kids give an “elbow-five” to a few friends.
- Make announcements and collect offering.
- Celebrate any birthdays by having kids say “happy birthday” in a deep voice.

ASK: Tell about a fun thing you did with a friend or sibling last week. Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share! For groups of more than six, have kids share in pairs so everyone has a turn to talk.



SET THE STAGE (5 MINUTES)

SAY: Today we’ll hear some stories Jesus told about things that were lost. We’ll find out that ➡ **Jesus looks for us when we’re lost!**

ASK: Tell about a time you got lost. Share your own quick story first, and then let everyone share!

SAY: It can be scary to get lost! And it can be just as scary to lose something. Today we’ll learn about a shepherd and a woman who each lost something very important to them. We’ll see how hard they searched and what the Bible says about how ➡ **Jesus looks for us.**



EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE (10 MINUTES)



SUPPLIES

- Bible
- 3 cotton balls
- coins or other small items
- paper
- pens

TALK ABOUT IT

SAY: Today we’re going to talk about how ➡ **Jesus looks for us** because we’re important to him. Have you ever lost something important to you?

Tell kids about a time you lost something important to you, and share what you did to try to find it. Then invite kids to tell about times they lost something important to them and what they did to try to find it.

SAY: When we lose something important, we look for it! We don’t want it to stay lost! In the same way, when people are far away from Jesus, ➡ **he looks for them.**

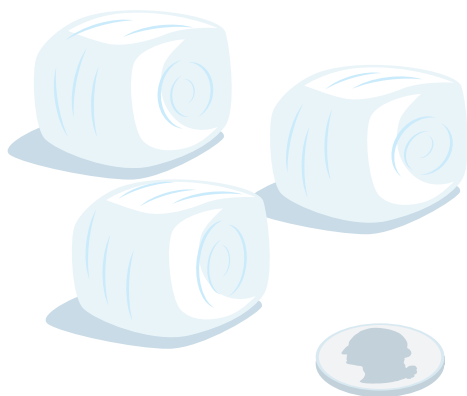
That doesn’t mean they are physically far from Jesus. Sometimes people’s relationship with Jesus isn’t very close or they don’t even know him. But Jesus wants to find them and have a close relationship with them. He told a couple of stories that help us understand that.

LOOK FOR COTTON BALLS

SAY: The first story Jesus told was about a shepherd who lost one sheep. Let’s see what he did.



Open the Bible to Luke 15 and show kids the words. Then read Luke 15:3-7.





PLAY A VERSION OF MARCO POLO

Gather kids together in a group. Choose an older child to be the Shepherd. Then explain the rules of the game.

SAY: The Shepherd in this game is looking for the Sheep—which are all of you. The Shepherd has to search with his or her eyes closed.

While the Sheep move around the room, the Shepherd will call out “Sheep” and the Sheep will respond by “baaing.” The Shepherd will continue calling out and following the sound of the sheep noises in order to find and tag each Sheep.

As the Shepherd tags a Sheep, the Shepherd will give a loud shout of joy and give the Sheep a hug or a high-five. Then, while keeping eyes closed, the Shepherd will continue looking for and tagging sheep.

- Begin the game by having the Shepherd close his or her eyes and count to 10.
- While the Shepherd counts, encourage the Sheep to spread out around the room.
- Play for as long as time allows, choosing a new Shepherd every two minutes.

TALK ABOUT IT

ASK: How was the Shepherd in this game like or unlike Jesus when he’s looking for each of us?

ASK: Tell about the last time someone was as excited to see you as the Shepherd was to see his sheep in this game.

SAY: Like the Shepherd, Jesus joyfully welcomes us with when he finds us. And just as the Shepherd didn’t stop looking until all the sheep were found,

➡ **Jesus never stops looking for each of us.**





PRAY TOGETHER (5 MINUTES)



SPIN

SAY: Feeling lost can be kind of like feeling dizzy. Have kids stand up and spin in circles until they feel dizzy. Sit down to recover from being dizzy. As you do, silently talk to Jesus about ways you feel lost. Ask him to find you.

Allow time for silent prayer.

SAY: We've probably all been lost or lost something important at least once in our lives. But sometimes we're not actually lost. We know where we are. We just *feel* lost.

We might feel like we don't know where God is or what God wants us to do. We might not be sure we really believe in God. That's called being spiritually lost. That's why ➡ Jesus looks for us. He wants us to always remember that he wants to be with us.



CLOSE

PRAY: Jesus, thank you that ➡ you look for us. Find us when we feel lost. Even if we aren't sure we always believe in you, come find us like the shepherd found his lost sheep. If we feel far away from you or don't know what you want us to do, come find us. In your name, amen.

Counting Squares

