



3rd -5th

March 9-10, 2013

DATE

The Lost Sheep

LESSON TITLE

Luke 15:1-10 (Pg.1147-1148 NIV)

WHERE TO FIND IT

We are all important to God

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

Engage kids in a specific activity from the moment they walk into the door. Help them find something to color, build, or pretend. This will help each kid feel valued and included...especially, if they are a little nervous.

check-in/out

As kids come in, try to welcome them by name. It'll make them feel known!

large group heads up

Today, we're talking about a parable Jesus told that helps us understand God's character. It reveals that his love for us is pretty remarkable! Read Luke 15:1-7 (Pg. 1147 NIV) ahead of time, so you're prepared to talk to kids about it.



instructions

Goal: to help the kids draw their own conclusion about God's radical love for them

Why? If we allow the Holy Spirit to lead kids to a conclusion vs. forcing them to recall an application point, their understanding will be deeper and more personal, drawing them nearer to God

Tip: When kids write on their note cards, be sensitive to kids who may not be able to write well—offer the option to draw pictures.

small group

CONNECT

1. Tell me your name and one thing you've lost. (Afterwards, ask one or two kids to describe how they felt when they found that thing, if it seems like an important item that would generate a lot of joy to find.)

REVIEW ACTIVITY

2. Today's story was about a shepherd who lost his sheep. Does anybody remember why Jesus told us that story? (To help us understand who God is; remind kids that in the story, God is the shepherd and we are the sheep)
3. (**PASS OUT NOTE CARDS**) I'm going to give each of you a note card and a **marker**. Don't put your name or anything on it. First, just listen. I'm going to read this story from the Bible (it's only a few verses). Remember, Jesus told us the story so we can learn about God. As I read, I want you to write down ONE thing this story teaches you about God—you can write it in words or pictures. It can be anything! (Read Luke 15:1-7 and give kids a minute to respond. Help them if they get stuck. Some important themes are: 1. he runs after us to find us, 2. he rescues us, 3. he gets excited when we follow him.)
4. (Collect the note cards.) Okay, I'm going to read/show these aloud. Let's see what we can learn about God today. (Read them aloud. Ask kids to tell you if you don't know what they say. **Make sure to touch on these: 1. he runs after us to find us, 2. he rescues us, 3. he gets excited when we follow him.**)

REACT/RELATE

5. Have you ever been REALLY excited to see someone? Maybe an old friend, a family member, a cute boy/girl at school, a veteran? (Let a couple of kids share about a time they've experienced that feeling.)

(Continue on the next page)

****Then SAY: God feels even more excited than that... when YOU decide to draw near to him and follow him.)**

6. Think of the absolute worst bully at school or biggest criminal you've seen on TV. What do you think Jesus and God would do if that person started following God? (Rejoice! Get excited just like the shepherd got excited when he found the sheep.)
7. Why do you think God *wants* people to follow him so badly that he rescued us? (let kids speculate, but make sure they know it's NOT that God wants us to do good things for the sake of "being good": Like the shepherd in the story, God wants us—his sheep—to be close to him and trust him to care for us and follow him because he loves each and every one of us so much!)

***Pray together: Ask God to help us understand who he really is and thanking him that he loves each and every one of us so much!**

Extra time? Grab a game for the group to play together or use the **extra paper to play Hangman or Pictionary.*

LARGE group

special notes

We want kids to have a chance to hear from God personally today. The final video is not just review but also a chance for them to listen to God. Pray that God reveals his love to kids!

presenter tips

Today's story is an analogy, which can be hard for kids to understand. Make sure you are prepared, so you can present it in a clear way. Emphasize how we are ALL like sheep and God is our very loving shepherd.

script

WELCOME AND INTRO

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club! I'm so glad to see all of you today. We've been talking about how Jesus' love changes us. Today, we're going to hear a really cool story Jesus told to help us understand God and his love for us.

PEOPLE MISUNDERSTOOD GOD'S CHARACTER

Remember, Jesus loved to tell stories called parables. Parables help us understand the Kingdom of God and who God—the King!—really is. See, a lot of people didn't know who God was. It wasn't that they hadn't heard of him, but they thought he was different than he really is. Before we hear what *they* think, let's ask ourselves a question to see if *we* know what God is like. Ready?

(**Show picture of a criminal.**) First, think of a criminal in jail. This criminal stole from a bunch of people. They lost everything they had because this guy was a thief. (**Show picture of a pastor.**) Now, think of a person who knows a LOT about God—maybe a pastor. This guy helps a lot of people and is constantly trying to learn about God.

Okay, now point to the one you think God likes better. (Let kids respond. If they say "criminal" act impressed and move to the next part, but do NOT say that God liked the criminal better!! If they say "pastor," just move to the next part.)

Well, back when Jesus was alive, most people would have said the pastor! In fact, there was a whole group of church people called Pharisees who taught that the only people God cared about were ones who obeyed rules and studied the Bible! **But that wasn't—and isn't—true!**



script continued

THE STORY OF THE LOST SHEEP

So Jesus told a parable to show us what IS true about God's love. Right before he told today's story, he was talking to a bunch of people who the Pharisees called "sinners"—people who lied, stole, cheated... and made other bad choices. They were big time troublemakers. And the Pharisees didn't like it, because they thought Jesus should only talk to people who obeyed all the rules.

Well, Jesus knew what they were thinking, so he told them the parable of the lost sheep: One day, a shepherd was taking care of 100 sheep. Kind of like how you guys might babysit for little kids or take care of your siblings, or how your parents take care of you.

Well, suddenly, the shepherd saw that one sheep was missing! Just imagine what would happen if you were babysitting and one of the kids went missing! It would be a BIG deal. Have you guys ever lost something really important or valuable? **Turn and tell a friend about a time you lost something.** (Let kids tell a friend. Let a couple of kids share if there's time.)

It's an awful feeling to lose something important, isn't it? And this shepherd HAD to find that sheep! He knew what could happen if a little sheep was by itself! Think about it. What kind of things could happen to a little lamb if it was off by itself in the wild? (Let kids respond.)

Yes, a little lamb might get stuck in a hole...or on a steep cliff...or eaten by a wild animal... anything! The shepherd wanted the sheep to stay with him and follow him. So guess what he did? He left his 99 sheep who were *not* running away, and went out and looked for the lost sheep to rescue it—that's how much he loved every...single...sheep.

When the shepherd finally found the sheep, think about how he must have felt...He was SO happy! He started telling everybody that his sheep had been lost, but now he found it!

GOD IS THE SHEPHERD; WE ARE THE SHEEP

You know why Jesus told us that story? ...Because God is like the shepherd who wants to take care of his sheep. And WE are like those sheep. Psalm 95:7 says this:

SLIDE: Psalm 95:7 He is our God. We are the sheep belonging to his flock. We are the people he takes good care of.

And you know what?! We've ALL done wrong things that separate us from our shepherd. We've all sinned. That means we've all been lost and needed our shepherd to rescue us! And THAT'S why God sent Jesus!

One of the best parts of that story is the end. Remember how excited the shepherd was when he rescued his sheep? God gets that excited when *any* person—a pastor or a criminal in jail or you or me—decides to follow him. This is what Jesus said in Luke 15:7a:

SLIDE: Luke 15:7a I tell you, it will be the same in heaven. There will be great joy when one sinner turns away from sin.



script continued

Let's watch a short video to help us imagine this story. As you watch, pretend that the shepherd is God and the sheep is YOU! Imagine God chasing after you and rescuing you!

Video: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Wow, pretty cool to think of God chasing us, huh? When we realize just how much God loves us, it makes us want to love him back!

WORSHIP

Let's spend some time worshiping him right now and thanking him for loving us even when we mess up.

Music Video: Radio (animated music video for kids to watch)

Worship Video: You Come In A Hurry (live lyrics with hand motions)

PRAY

Ask someone to pray and ask God to show us more of who he is this week!



script continued

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY

name

THIS PAGE LEFT BLANK INTENTIONALLY



PREP needs



small group supplies

1. Note cards (at least 1 per kid)
2. Markers
3. A few pieces of blank paper per small group
4. NIV Adventure Bible (Pg.1147-1148)

large group supplies

NIV Adventure Bible (Pg.1147-1148)

a/v needs

1. Image: criminal (jpeg in curric folder)
2. Image: pastor (jpeg in curric folder)
3. Slide: Psalm 95:7 (See lesson for text)
4. Slide: Luke 15:7a (See lesson for text)
5. Video: Parable of the Lost Sheep
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyWZeOlaRo4&feature=related> (please cut off the first 5 seconds)
6. Music Video: Radio
7. Worship Video: You Come In A Hurry

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about the lost sheep.
What does this story show us about God?

parent page

Today's story is a parable Jesus told to help people understand who God is. See, some religious leaders thought God didn't care about "sinners" who made bad choices. Thankfully, they were wrong! Ask your kid to tell you about it. Then read the story together in Luke 15:1-7.