



Kindergarten-2nd

March 9-10, 2013

DATE

The Lost Sheep

LESSON TITLE

Luke 15:1-7

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus looks for us

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 leave, remind them to tell their parents why they made a cotton-ball sheep.

large group heads up

Today's story is about the sheep who was lost and the shepherd who left a whole flock of sheep to rescue it. That's how individual God's love is for us—and why he sent Jesus to rescue each of us!



instructions

Goal: To help kids understand how much God loves them and equip kids to retell the story at home

Why? Parables can be tough for kids to understand, but the truth in them is really important. We want kids to lay a foundation for understanding Jesus' love by learning today's story.

Tip: Emphasize how the sheep needed to be rescued to follow the shepherd, and how we need to be rescued to follow God. This will prepare kids to hear about Jesus' rescue during the next few weeks.

small group

CONNECT

1. Tell me your name and if you ever lost a stuffed animal or something else important.
2. How did you feel when you found it?

REVIEW

3. What's the name of the special stories Jesus tells? (parables)
4. How do you think the sheep in today's story got lost? (It probably ran away—the shepherd didn't go anywhere with the whole flock and just leave one sheep!)
5. What did the shepherd do to show us he *really* wanted to find that lost sheep? (he left 99 others)
6. Why did the shepherd have to leave and go find the lost sheep? (He knew the sheep could get hurt or stuck—it couldn't get back on its own! The sheep needed to be rescued.)
7. Who is like the shepherd? (Jesus/God)
8. Who does *Jesus/God* want to rescue? (Us!)
9. And how does God feel when we decide we want to follow him? (Like you when you found your lost stuffed animal or the shepherd when he found that sheep, like he wanted to tell everyone, "Now _____ follows me!"—reference kids by name.)

***Pray together, thanking God that he loves every single one of us and loves us so much that he actually gets excited when we decide to follow him!**

Cotton Ball Sheep Activity/Story Review!

We're going to make a sheep to help us remember how much God loves every..single..one of us. Just like a shepherd loves every sheep. (Steps are listed on the next page.)

(Continued on the next page)

1. Give each kid a **sheep handout** (tell them there can be spotted sheep, because this sheep is spotted!)
2. Pass out the **cotton balls and glue sticks**. Help them glue the cotton balls onto the white part of the template.
3. Give each kid **“googly” eyes**. Let them stick the “googly” eyes onto the sheep.

After kids create their sheep, tell them we’re going to use their sheep to reenact the story. Then follow the steps below to help them retell the story at home!

- Have kids all put their sheep together in the middle of the table. Choose a “shepherd” and a sheep to get “lost.”
- Have the “lost” sheep scamper off while the “shepherd” isn’t looking. (You can decide how secretly you want kids to hide the sheep.)
- The “shepherd” can get up and look for the sheep.
- When the sheep is found, the shepherd celebrates!

Remind them that Jesus is like the shepherd in the story and we are like the sheep (we want them to add that detail when they retell it to their families).

special notes

Before kids come into the room, hide the stuffed sheep in a place where kids can spot it if they are looking, but won't automatically notice!

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 the sheep needed to be rescued to follow the shepherd, and how we need to be rescued to follow God.

script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club! Today, we're going to hear a story that Jesus told. Remember, Jesus told us a lot of stories to help teach us about God or about how to follow Jesus. They were called parables. Can you guys say "parables"? (Let kids say: parables.)

INTRO: LOSING A STUFFED ANIMAL

But first, I need your help. Will you guys help me? See, I lost something: I lost my stuffed sheep. Has anybody in here ever lost a stuffed animal? Maybe you left it in the car or it got stuck between the couch cushions. Has that happened to anybody? Raise your hand if that's happened to you. (Let kids respond.)

Isn't it awful when that happens!?! (Rhetorical) You don't know if your stuffed animal is outside in the rain or cold—or if anybody is taking care of it! Has anybody ever wondered if their teddy bear looks sad, like this!?! (**Show picture of teddy in the rain** and let kids respond.) Plus, you miss playing with it! I hope my poor sheep is okay! I've got to rescue it!

INTRO: FINDING A STUFFED ANIMAL

So I need you guys to help me! (Look around the room) ...Hmm, does anybody see a sheep anywhere? (Let the kids look around until they spot the sheep and can point and direct you to it. Then get dramatically excited when you discover it.) Yay, I'm SO happy to find this **sheep!** Look guys! I lost my sheep, but now I found it!! (Celebrate dramatically, hug the sheep, etc.)

And I'm *really* glad we found this little guy, because today's story is all about a lost sheep who was found! Not a stuffed sheep like this one (hold up the stuffed sheep—then place them in the back of the presenter area, hidden from the kids' sight) ...a real sheep like *this* one (**show the picture of the real sheep.**) Let's take a look!



script continued

THE STORY OF THE LOST SHEEP: PART I (LOST)

The story—parable!—Jesus told was about a shepherd. See, a shepherd's job is to take care of sheep, kind of like how you take care of your stuffed animals or your mom or dad or babysitter takes care of *you*! Now, this shepherd had 100 sheep that he had to take care of! Everybody say, "WOAH!" (Let kids say, "woah!") Yeah, that's a LOT of sheep.

Well, one day, the shepherd realized one sheep was missing! Hold up one finger (let kids respond). He still had 99 sheep, but one little sheep was gone. (Run and duck behind something so the kids can just barely see you. Then say): *The shepherd couldn't find his sheep anywhere!* (Come back out.) Everybody say, "OH NO!" (Let kids say: Oh no!)

Even though the shepherd had LOTS of OTHER sheep...he wanted to rescue his ONE sheep. He knew what could happen if a little sheep was by itself. Think about it. What kind of things could happen to a soft and gentle sheep if it was off by itself? **Turn and tell a friend what might happen.** (Let kids tell a friend. Take answers if you have time.)

A little lamb might get stuck in a hole...or on a steep cliff...or it might even get chased by a wild animal like a wolf! And the shepherd loved the little sheep!! He wanted the sheep to stay with him and follow him, so he could keep the sheep safe. Shepherds can *help* sheep who get stuck or fight off wolves. If the sheep follows the shepherd, the shepherd will keep him safe, even if he gets scared sometimes!

STORY OF THE LOST SHEEP: PART II (FOUND!)

So guess what the shepherd did? He left his whole crowded field of sheep, and went out and looked for the ONE sheep to rescue it—that's how much he loved every...single...sheep. He looked for it (act like you're looking)...and looked for it...and looked for it. (Keep looking.)

(Go back to where you placed the stuffed sheep and pick it up in triumph.) Finally, he found it! When he did, he was SO happy! (Act overly excited.) He told everybody that he had lost his sheep, but now he found it! Just like when I found my stuffed sheep!

JESUS LOVES EACH OF US

You know why Jesus told us that story? ...Because God is like the shepherd who wants to take care of his sheep. (Hold the sheep close) And we are like sheep. **Just like the sheep needed to be rescued to follow the shepherd, and WE need to be rescued to follow God.** And God sent Jesus to rescue us from the wrong things in the world! We really can follow him.

Let's watch a short video that shows us how this story might have looked. As you watch try to imagine that the shepherd is Jesus and the sheep is YOU!

Video: *The Parable of the Lost Sheep*



script continued

Like in the video, when one of us decides to follow God, Jesus is SO excited! He wants to tell everyone, "My child wasn't following me, but now he is! Or now SHE is!" ...Because he loves every...single...one of us! Everybody point to somebody and say, "Jesus loves you!" (Let kids respond.)

WORSHIP

Great job! Now let's sing some songs and celebrate that God loves us ALL!

Song: Dance Shout and Sing (live lyrics with hand motions)

Song: Come With Me (music video with hand motions)

PRAY

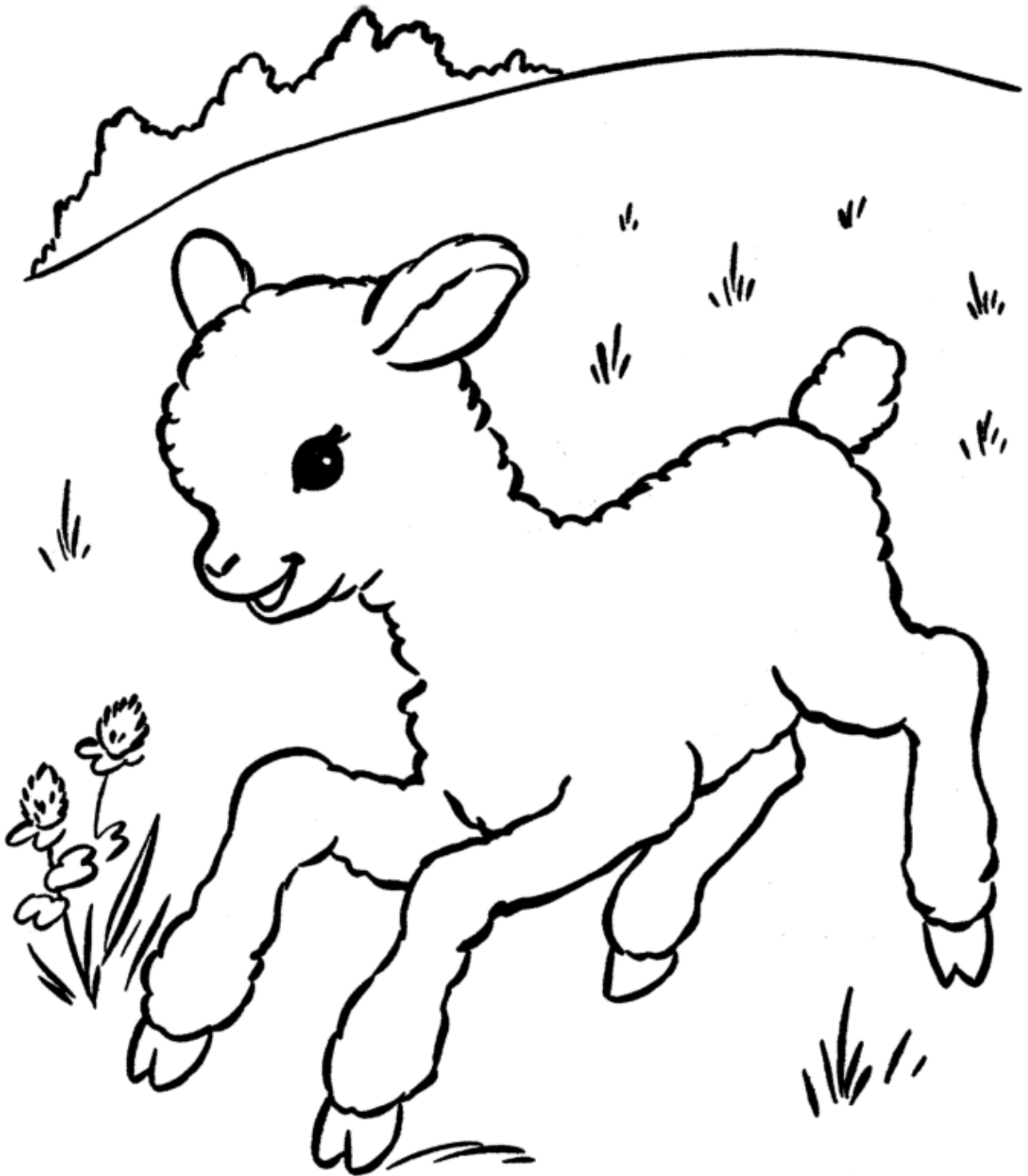
Ask someone to pray and thank Jesus for wanting every single one of us to follow him!



script continued

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name



PREP needs



small group supplies

1. Coloring pages
2. 1 Colored printout of sheep template per kid (pdf in curriculum folder)
3. Glue sticks
4. Cotton balls (10ish per kid)
5. 2 “googly” eyes per kid

large group supplies

- 1 stuffed sheep

a/v needs

1. Image: teddy bear in the rain (jpeg in curric folder)
2. Image: sheep (jpeg in curric folder)
3. Video: Parable of the Lost Sheep
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyWZeOlaRo4&feature=related> (please cut off the first 5 seconds)
4. Music Video: Dance, Shout and Sing
5. Music Video: Come With Me

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about the lost sheep.
Why did Jesus tell today's story?

parent page

Today, we talked about a story Jesus told to a group of people. It's about a sheep that was lost and a shepherd who left his field to go rescue that sheep. When he got the sheep back, the shepherd rejoiced! It's how Jesus feels when one of us chooses to follow him. You can read the story together in Luke 15:1-7.