



Kindergarten-2nd

March 8-9, 2014

DATE

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

LESSON TITLE

Luke 15:1-7
(Pg.1219 NIV Adv. Bible for Early Readers)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus loves each of us and wants us all to be part of God's family!

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 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

Before the kids arrive, look at the sample of today's craft and decide how you want to structure the small group activity.

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to retell today's story using the prop (the sheep) they made during small group.

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 Jesus' love is for us!



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

I SPY

You can play this from your seats or walk around the room.

- Lead first to show the kids how to play. Take the **spyglass** and say, "I spy something with the color _____" and let the kids guess. Or say, "I spy something shaped like a _____" and let the kids guess.
- Whoever guesses correctly first gets to be the next one to "spy" with the spyglass.
- If you are playing in a big group, you can ask all kids to come up with an answer in their heads, and then yell it out all at once. You won't be able to tell exactly who got it right, but it could be fun for kids!

Then take some time to ask kids about the best/worst part of their week. Before you head into Large Group, remind them about your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: To help kids understand how much Jesus 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 Jesus. This will prepare kids to hear about Jesus' rescue during the next few weeks.

small group

REVIEW THE STORY

***Try this for a more engaged discussion: tell kids you're going to ask a question. Then you'll throw the *ball* to somebody and it's their job to answer. Then, everybody has to listen carefully to the next question. The kid with the ball must toss it to someone else.**

1. What's the name of a story that teaches us a lesson? (parable)
2. How do you think the sheep in today's story got lost?
3. What did the shepherd do to show us he *really* wanted to find that lost sheep?
4. Why did the shepherd have to leave and go and find the sheep? (He knew the sheep could get hurt or stuck—it couldn't get back on its own! The sheep needed to be rescued.)
5. Who is like the shepherd? (Jesus)
6. Who does *Jesus* want to rescue? (Us!)

CONNECT TO THE STORY

7. Tell me about a time you lost something and then found it. How did that feel?
8. How did the shepherd feel when he found the sheep and it went home and followed him?
9. How does Jesus feel when we decide to follow him?

ACTIVITY

Make **sheep** (see example photo in small group bin). Give kids a pack, but hold up items one by one and lead them through the construction:

- a sheep body to lay on the table
- a large circular white piece to stick onto the top of the body
- a second large white piece to lay directly over the first

(Continued on the following page)

- a small circular white piece to stick directly on the large piece
- a second small white piece to place directly on the first
- a sheep face to stick directly on the small white piece
- the smallest tuft of hair to stick between the ears so it looks like hair

****Then give them a magnet and tell them they can hang it up on their refrigerator.***

... Extra time? Practice retelling the story as a group, using your new sheep crafts to create a flock. Let one kid at a time get "lost" (hide his or her sheep). As the shepherd, lead the group to go find that sheep. Each time, remind kids that Jesus chases after us and wants us to be part of God's family! You can also gather around the screen and re-watch today's video.

special notes

You can preview today's video here:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyWZeOlaRo4>.

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 Jesus.

script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club! Today, we're going to hear another story that Jesus told called a parable. Does anybody remember what a parable is? (Let kids respond.) That's right! It's a story that teaches us a lesson. This is a story that teaches us that God loves us SO much and wants ALL of us to be part of his family.

INTRO: LOSING A STUFFED ANIMAL

But first, I need your help, and since you guys have been finding things, I think you'd be good at this. See, I lost something...my **stuffed sheep**, Lamby. 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? (Let kids respond.)

Isn't it awful when that happens!? Did anybody go out searching for their lost stuffed animal? (Let kids raise their hands. Call on one kid.) WHY did you go looking for it? (Let kid respond.) Yes, we look for things we love and care about, right? Oh, I hope Lamby is okay! I love it and 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 I found Lamby! 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 that was found! (Hold up the **stuffed sheep**—then place them in the back of the presenter area, hidden from the kids' sight.)



script continued

A SHEPHERD'S JOB IS TO CARE FOR SHEEP

The story—parable!—Jesus told was about a shepherd. See, a shepherd's job is to take care of his 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! Flash me 100 fingers (model holding up ten fingers ten times). Woah, that's a LOT of sheep.

Think about that for a second. Does anybody here have 100 pets? Everybody stand up. (Let kids stand.) Sit down if you don't have any pets. (Let kids sit.) Sit down if you only have 1 pet. (Let kids sit.) Sit down if you only have 2. (Let kids sit.) How about 3? (Continue until all kids are seated.) Just imagine trying to take care of 100 sheep!

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

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. Now, if you guys had 100 pets, do you think you'd notice right away if one was missing?! Well, this shepherd did!

And 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 little lamb 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*, right?! 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. If the sheep follows the shepherd, the shepherd will protect it!

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! In Luke 5:6-7, Jesus tells us what the shepherd who finds a lost sheep will do:

SLIDE: Luke 5:6-7: And when you find it, you will be so glad that you will put it on your shoulder and carry it home. Then you will call in your friends and neighbors and say, "Let's celebrate! I've found my lost sheep."

JESUS LOVES EACH OF US

You know why Jesus told us that story? What does that story teach us about God's love? (Let kids respond.) ...Because Jesus is like the shepherd who wants to take care of his sheep. (Hold the sheep close.)



script continued

And who do you think we're like in that story? (Let kids say: the sheep!) Yes! ...The lost sheep. **Just like the sheep needed to be rescued to follow the shepherd, and WE need to be rescued to follow Jesus.** And Jesus is like that shepherd because he rescued us from the wrong things in the world! And he wants us to follow him.

Let's watch a short video that shows us how this story might have looked. As you watch, just to imagine that the shepherd is Jesus and the sheep is YOU! Think about how it feels to have Jesus chase after you.

Video: The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Like in the video, when we're not following Jesus, *it's like he goes out looking for us!* (Use the spyglass, like the kids used in "I Spy" during Connect Time; sweep the room with it) He wants to see ALL of us following him! And when one person decides to follow Jesus, he is SO excited! He wants to tell everyone, "Let's celebrate! This person I love is following me!" and jump for joy like the shepherd in the video. ...Because he loves **every. single. one** of us!

WORSHIP

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

Song: Come With Me

Song: Jesus Loves Me

PRAY

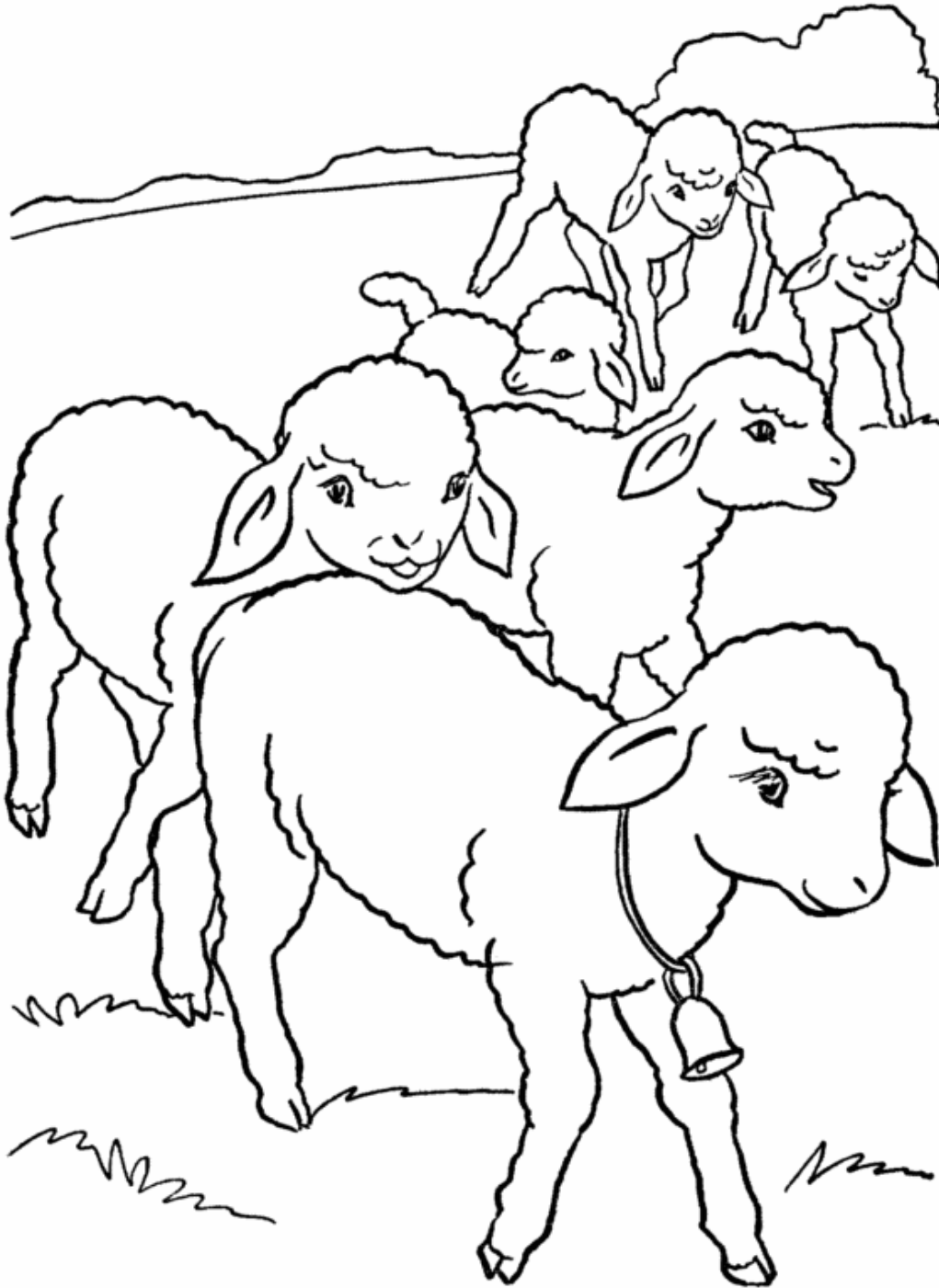
Ask someone to pray and thank Jesus for wanting every single one of us to follow him!



script continued

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name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

1 spyglass per small group: OT:IN-39/638

small group supplies

- One sheep per kid from this set: OT: IN-48/9255
- One example photo of finished product per small group example
- One small ball per small group (large

- enough to toss comfortably, but any style will work)
- Coloring page: Sheep

large group supplies

1 stuffed sheep
1 spyglass OT:IN-39/638 (same as in Connect Time)

a/v needs

1. SLIDE: Luke 5:6-7: And when you find it, you will be so glad that you will put it on your shoulder and carry it home. Then you will call in your friends and neighbors and say, "Let's celebrate! I've found my lost sheep."
2. Video: The Lost Sheep
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyWZeOlaRo4>)
3. Song: Come with Me (with hand motions)
4. Song: Jesus Loves Me (with hand motions)

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 15:1-10.