

The Lost Sheep Elementary Lesson

Theme:

Jesus never gives up on us.

Scripture: *“Then Jesus told them this story: ‘Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but he loses 1 of them. Then he will leave the other 99 sheep alone and go out and look for the lost sheep. The man will keep on searching for the lost sheep until he finds it. And when he finds it, the man is very happy. He puts it on his shoulders and goes home. He calls to his friends and neighbors and says, ‘Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!’ In the same way, I tell you there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart. There is more joy for that one sinner than there is for 99 good people who don’t need to change.”* Luke 15:3-7 (ICB)

The Children’s Sermon:

You’ll Need:

- Bible
- A bag full of small stuffed toys

Get Ready: Hide one of the toys somewhere in the room.

Say: **I have a very nice collection of stuffed toys. They come in all shapes and sizes. Animals are my favorites. Today I brought some of them to show to you.** (Show the stuffed toys, commenting on each as you show it.)

Ask: **What’s one of your favorite stuffed animals or toys?**

Say: **Oh, my! I seem to have lost one of my stuffed toys. I know I had it when I got here. Would you help me look for it?** (Lead the children in a search for the lost toy. When it is found, continue the sermon.)

Say: **Thank you so much for helping me find the lost toy. Even though I have a very large collection, every one of them is very important to me and I would be very upset if one of them was lost.** (Hug the toy to your chest.)

Say: That reminds me of a lesson Jesus taught to a group of religious leaders one day. The religious leaders were very upset that Jesus was often seen hanging out with people they thought were bad. The religious leaders called these people sinners. Jesus was even sometimes seen eating with these sinners. The religious leaders didn't like that at all and were very critical of Jesus. Jesus told them a story to help them understand.

Say: This story comes from the Bible in the book of Luke. (Open your Bible to the book of Luke.) Jesus said, "Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but he loses one of them. Then he will leave the other 99 sheep alone and go out and look for the lost sheep. The man will keep on searching for the lost sheep until he finds it. And when he finds it, the man is very happy. Can you show me your happiest face?"

Put your found stuffed animal on your shoulder.

Say: The shepherd is happy he finds his sheep. He puts it on his shoulders and goes home. He calls to his friends and neighbors and says, 'Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!'

Say: Jesus told this story to show what he felt like when he found someone who was far from him. Jesus said, "In the same way, I tell you there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart. There is more joy for that one sinner than there is for 99 good people who don't need to change."

Pray: Dear Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd. We are thankful that you came to save those who are lost and far from you. Thank you for never giving up on us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

"Why Sheep Need a Shepherd" Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- ["Why Sheep Need a Shepherd" video lesson](#)
- Something to play the video

Tell children that today's video is about why sheep need a shepherd. Then play the video.

Afterward, say: **The Bible talks about sheep being lost and our video showed us what happens when a sheep is lost. The dangers that lost people experience when they are far from Jesus are different. Let's think of what people experience when they are lost or far from Jesus.**

Help children make a list of ideas that might include: people are sad, people are afraid, people get hurt, people start doing bad things that can hurt them. If children are having a difficult time with the list, remind them of the dangers sheep faced in the video:

1. Sheep cannot get off their backs without help. What do people need Jesus' help with?
2. Sheep may eat too much. What do people eat or drink too much of that ultimately hurts them?
3. Sheep can be attacked. What enemies or dangers do people face?
4. Sheep can get lonely. What happens when people are lonely?
5. Sheep will follow each other into a hole. What are things people do when they give into pressure from their friends?

Interactive Scripture Reading: Luke 15:1-7

I Was Lost and You Found Me

You'll Need:

- a purse with items in it

Get Ready: Choose one child to be the teacher and three children to be the "lost" kids. Set the purse on a chair.

Children will act out a modernized skit of today's Scripture. **Today we're going to put on a skit that shows what it's like when people are lost. I'm going to give you some ideas for your skit. You can change these if you want. For our skit...**

- **The place will be a playground.**
- **The people will be kids your age.**

- **The problem will be that one of the children is lost. This person has given into peer pressure and is tempted to steal from someone's purse.**

Say: I will read the Scripture and stop to let you play your parts.

Suppose we have (the number of kids present). But three friends are off by themselves. (Allow the three children to move to the other side of the room.)

The children were playing and having fun. (Have kids decide what they're playing and let them pantomime that.)

One of the children saw someone's purse sitting by itself on a bench. The first child went to the purse and stole something out of it. (Allow the child to act this out.)

Lead the children in gasping and putting their hands over their mouths.

The second child went to the purse and stole something out of it. (Allow the child to act this out.)

Lead the children in gasping and putting their hands over their mouths.

The third child went to the purse and looked around. Should he/she steal something out of it? The child thought about it but did not steal anything. (Allow the child to act this out.)

Just then, a teacher came onto the playground and saw the third child. (Allow the child to act this out.) **The teacher asked the child what he/she was doing.** (Allow the children to act this out.)

The teacher puts his/her arm around the third child and said, "Jesus never gives up on you." (Allow the children to act this out.)

Soon, the teacher and the child walked back to the group of friends. (Allow the children to act this out.)

Say: **Remember what Jesus said in the story he told: “He calls to his friends and neighbors and says, ‘Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!’ In the same way, I tell you there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart. There is more joy for that one sinner than there is for 99 good people who don’t need to change.”**

The group of children cheered and welcomed the child. (Allow the children to act this out.) **And everyone started playing together again.** (Allow the children to act this out.)

After the skit, lead children in applause for all the actors.

Lead children in this discussion:

- **What did you learn about what it means to be “lost”?**
- **When is a time that you’ve felt lost--either tempted, afraid, or lonely?**
- **How did Jesus help you when you felt lost?**

Bible Memory Verse: *“I tell you there is much joy in heaven when one sinner changes his heart.”* (Luke 15:7)

Sheep Hunt

You’ll Need:

- [“Sheep Hunt” handout](#)
- Bible

Get Ready: Cut up the sheep from the “Sheep Hunt” handout. Then hide them around the room.

Have kids search for all 16 of the sheep. Once all are found, have children put the words in order to create the verse. Have children recite the verse. Then remove several of the words at a time and lead children in saying the memory verse. Do this several times.

Bible Game: Sheep Relay

You'll Need:

- Vaseline petroleum jelly
- cotton balls

Get Ready: Spread cotton balls in two piles at one end of the room--either on tables or the floor. Rub Vaseline on each child's nose.

Form two teams and have them each line up across the room opposite their pile of cotton balls. On "go," have children race one at a time to their cotton ball pile and work to get as many cotton balls on their nose while using NO hands. Once children have had a turn, they return to their line and the next child runs. Continue until every child has had a chance to play.

After the game, take a class photo of all the "sheep"!

Then ask:

- **What was hard about this game?**
- **What do you think would be hard about being a shepherd for sheep?**
- **Why do you think Jesus never gives up on us?**

Parable of the Lost Sheep Coloring Page

You'll Need:

- ["Parable of the Lost Sheep Coloring Page"](#)
- Markers or crayons
- Cotton balls
- Glue or glue sticks

- Tissue paper, green, blue, brown and white
- Scissors

Give each child a “Parable of the Lost Sheep Coloring Page.” Encourage kids to color their paper. They can also glue cotton to the sheep and tissue paper to the shepherd’s clothing or the trees. As they work on their coloring pages, remind kids that Jesus never gives up on us.

Time to Praise God

You’ll Need:

- Song: “The Lord’s My Shepherd”
[Sheet Music \(PDF\)](#)
[Accompaniment \(MP3\)](#) Right click and save to your computer.
- Song: “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” - Traditional
[Sheet Music \(PDF\)](#)
[Accompaniment \(MP3\)](#) Right click and save to your computer.

Say: **Jesus never gives up on us. That’s a big reason to praise God. Let’s sing and celebrate that Jesus never gives up on us.**

Lead children in singing “The Lord’s My Shepherd” and “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us.”

Party Prayer

You’ll Need:

- party noisemakers--one per child; these can be homemade or store-bought.

Say: Jesus never gives up on us. And when we are lost. When we are afraid. When we are lonely. When we need help. When we are in danger...Jesus finds us. Let's celebrate this with our party noisemakers.

Have children stand around the room with their noisemakers, keeping them quiet. Tell children that you will pray and every time you say a prayer, they will celebrate with their noisemakers and move one large step closer to the center of the room.

Pray:

Jesus, thank you that you never give up on us. (Pause for kids to respond.)

Thank you, Jesus, that you find us when we are lost. (Pause for kids to respond.)

Thank you, Jesus, that you find us when we are afraid. (Pause for kids to respond.)

Thank you, Jesus, that you find us when we are lonely. (Pause for kids to respond.)

Thank you, Jesus, that you find us when we need help. (Pause for kids to respond.)

Thank you, Jesus, that you find us when we are in danger. (Once children are all together, have them celebrate loudly together--just like a party in heaven.)

Lost Sheep Snack

You'll Need:

- frosted cupcakes
- candies like Gummy Bears, M&M's, or jelly beans

Get Ready: Bake a cupcake for each child. Before frosting the cooled cupcakes, carefully push one candy into the cupcake. Then frost.

Give the children cupcakes to enjoy but don't tell them there's a surprise inside it. When children find their "lost sheep" inside, rejoice with them.

After everyone has eaten the cupcakes, remind children that in the same way that you rejoiced over their surprises, heaven rejoices when Jesus finds us.

Say: I'm so glad that Jesus never gives up on us.

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

[The Lost Sheep Crossword](#)

[The Lost Sheep Decoder](#)

[The Lost Sheep Word Search](#)