

# The Lost Child

## PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** God's love for us never ends.

**Scripture:** Romans 8:38-39

**Memory Verse:** Nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Romans 8:38-39

## The Children's Sermon

Boys and girls, today I want to tell you a story about a little sheep named Woolly. Woolly loved to play in the meadow, jump over rocks, and chase butterflies. But sometimes, Woolly got so caught up in playing that he wandered far away from his shepherd. Each time Woolly wandered away, he would get scared and lonely. He thought his shepherd would be mad at him and not want him back. But do you know what? Every time, the shepherd would go out, find Woolly, and bring him back with a big hug. The shepherd's love for Woolly was strong and unshakable.

Sometimes we act like this, boys and girls, with God. We wander away from God by not going to Sunday services, or not reading our Bible or not praying, or we do things we know will not please God. Then, we get it in our heads that God is angry with us and doesn't love us anymore. But that is a lie. God always receives us back and wants to spend time with us. Nothing we have done or will do is big enough to cause God to stop loving us. He loves you despite everything bad that you ever have done. That's called unshakable love.

Now, let me tell you more about unshakable love. Imagine you have a favorite toy that you carry everywhere. One day, you accidentally leave it in the mud and it gets all dirty.

When you find it, do you stop loving it because it's dirty? No! You clean it up, give it a big hug, and keep loving it just the same. That's how God loves us. Even when we make mistakes or get a little lost, God's love is unshakable. He cleans us up, gives us a big hug, and keeps loving us.

Sometimes, we might think, "But I've been really naughty, and I didn't listen to my mom or dad, or I was mean to my brother or sister. Surely, God doesn't love me now." But guess what? God's love doesn't work like that. His love isn't like a light switch that turns off when we do something bad. God's love is more like the sun, always shining on us, even when we can't see it through the clouds.

And you know, boys and girls, God wants us to share that unshakable love with others. When your friend is sad or someone is being left out, showing them love and kindness is like being a little shepherd, bringing them back to the warmth of God's love.

God's unshakable love is so big and so deep that it can fill our hearts to the brim and even overflow to others. It's like when you blow bubbles, and they float all around, spreading joy. God's love in our hearts can spread to others in the same way, through kind words, helping hands, and warm smiles.

Remember the story of the Prodigal Son? He left home, made bad choices, and thought his father wouldn't want him back. But when he returned, his father ran to him, hugged him, and threw a big party to celebrate. That's a picture of God's unshakable love for us. No matter how far we think we've gone, God is always ready to welcome us back with open arms and a joyful heart.

So, boys and girls, let's make a promise together. Let's promise to remember God's unshakable love for us, even when we mess up or feel alone. And let's promise to share that love with others, to be little shepherds of God's love in the world.

Let's finish with a prayer: Dear God, thank You for Your unshakable love that never gives up on us. Help us to always remember how much You love us and to share that love with everyone around us. Amen.

So, remember, boys and girls, no matter where you go, what you do, or how you feel, God's unshakable love is always with you, bigger and stronger than anything. And just like Woolly the sheep, even if we wander off, God, our shepherd, is always there to find us, bring us back, and remind us of His never-ending, unshakable love.

## Bible Memory Verse

### **Nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Romans 8:38-39**

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Stickers or markers

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into large heart shapes, one for each child.
- Set up a table with the heart shapes, scissors, glue sticks, and stickers or markers.

Do This:

1. Give each child a large heart shape and explain that this heart represents God's love for us.
2. Ask the children to decorate their hearts with stickers or markers while you talk about how God's love is big, colorful, and never ends.
3. Encourage the children to share their hearts with the group, talking about what they love about God. This helps reinforce the memory verse and the concept that nothing can separate us from God's love.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large sheet of paper or poster board
- Colorful markers or crayons
- Heart stickers

Get Ready:

- Write Romans 8:38-39 at the top of the poster board in big, colorful letters.
- Draw several large hearts scattered across the poster board, leaving space for children to add stickers and drawings.

Do this:

1. Read Romans 8:38-39 aloud to the children, emphasizing that nothing can separate us from God's love.
2. Give each child a heart sticker to place on the poster board while you talk about how each heart represents God's never-ending love for us.
3. Invite the children to draw pictures around the hearts of different ways they feel God's love in their lives (family, friends, nature, etc.).

## Snack Activity: Endless Love Fruit Loop Necklace

You'll Need:

- Fruit Loop cereal or any colorful cereal with holes
- String or yarn, cut into 30-inch lengths
- Tape (optional, to make stringing easier)

Get Ready: Tie a small knot at one end of the string. If using tape, wrap a small piece around the other end to make a 'needle.'

Do this:

1. Start by telling the children that just like the string goes through each Fruit Loop, God's love goes through and connects all of us together, and nothing can separate us from His love.
2. Let the children string the Fruit Loops onto the string, creating a colorful necklace. As they do, remind them that each color represents the different ways God shows His love to us, but all together, it's endless.
3. Once they are done, tie the ends of the string together to make a necklace. Explain that the circle they've created is like God's love for us: it has no beginning and no end, just like Romans 8:38-39 tells us.

## Game Activity: Endless Love Hop

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- Open space (sidewalk, driveway, or a safe area in a park)
- Small stones or beanbags

Get Ready: Use the sidewalk chalk to draw a large heart on the ground, divided into sections with numbers from 1 to 10. Each section represents a part of God's love (e.g., kindness, patience, forgiveness, etc.). Write one attribute in each section.

Do this:

1. Have the children stand at the starting point, a few feet away from the heart.
2. Let each child toss a stone or beanbag onto the heart from the starting point. Whichever section it lands on, the child hops on one foot to that section and says, 'God's love is [attribute].' For example, if the beanbag lands on the section labeled 'kindness,' the child will hop there and say, 'God's love is kindness.'
3. After reaching their section, the child picks up the stone or beanbag, returns to the start, and the next child takes their turn. This game helps reinforce the idea that God's love for us is vast and encompasses many qualities, and it never ends.

## Craft Activity: Endless Love Heart Chain

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Safety scissors
- Glue stick
- Marker

Get Ready: Cut the construction paper into strips about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long. Write Romans 8:38-39 on a separate piece of paper to display.

Do this:

1. Help the children write 'God's Love Never Ends' on several strips of paper with the marker. For younger children, you can write it for them and let them decorate the strips with drawings or stickers.
2. Show the children how to form a circle with one strip of paper and glue the ends together. This will be the start of your chain.
3. Take another strip of paper, loop it through the first circle, and glue the ends to form another circle. Continue adding links to the chain, explaining that just like the chain keeps going, God's love for us never ends.

## Prayer Activity: God's Unending Love Prayer Circle

You'll Need:

- A large piece of paper or poster board
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers with hearts or symbols of love

Get Ready: Write Romans 8:38-39 in simple language at the center of the paper or poster board. For example, 'Nothing can separate us from God's love.' Surround this verse with a large heart.

Do this:

1. Gather the children in a circle around the poster on the floor. Explain that the verse in the middle tells us about how much God loves us, and nothing can take that love away.
2. Give each child a crayon or marker. Invite them to draw or write something they love or feel thankful for inside the big heart around the verse. Assist the younger children as needed.

3. After everyone has had a turn, give each child a sticker. Let them place their sticker on the poster as a symbol of God's love being with them always. Finish by holding hands in a circle and saying a simple prayer together, thanking God for His never-ending love.