



Life of Christ

The story of the lost sheep

Luke 15:1-10

Younger Verse

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. John 10:28

Older Verse

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. John 10:27-28

Lesson Goals

To remember that everyone is special to Jesus
Understand that just like the people searched for the coin and sheep, Jesus searches for us and brings us to God and will NEVER leave us

Welcome Time

Ask the kids if they have ever lost anything? Ask them what they did? (probably all will say that they looked for it) Explain that today's lesson is about a story of a lost sheep and coin. Tell them that it also has another meaning.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Preschool Teachers: remember that small children will not understand the symbolism. Please share that Jesus loves them and will never leave them and He will always

Some people wonder if Jesus will ever leave you. Others wonder if you have to keep asking Jesus into your heart because He leaves when you do something wrong. Well, Jesus tells a story to help you see that He loves you very much and He will stay with you forever when you ask Him into your heart. This story helps you see that once Jesus is in your heart, He will never, ever leave.

Jesus said, "Imagine that you own 100 sheep. One night as you count them, you find that 1 sheep is missing. What will you do? Are you going to settle for 99 or will you look for the one lost sheep? Of course you will go look for the sheep!"

"You will retrace all your steps and look in every bush and by every rock. Finally the sheep is found! You put the sheep on your shoulder and start home. When you get back, you throw a party for your friends to celebrate finding your lost sheep.

"That's the way God feels about people. There is happiness in Heaven about one person who changes his ways and comes to God. The best thing is that Jesus will never leave us just like the shepherd kept looking for the sheep. He will protect us and care for us forever.

Jesus told another story too. "Suppose a woman owns ten silver coins. One day she discovers that she has lost one of them. She doesn't shrug her shoulders and decide to forget the coin. Instead, she begins to search for it. She shines her lamp into all the dark corners, then she finds a broom and carefully sweeps the floor. She watches for the coin to shine as the light hits it.

At last she sees a twinkle of brightness. She's found the lost coin! She is so happy that she invites her friends in and tells them the whole story. They share in



the celebration."

Jesus explained that this is how God feels about a person who turns to God. The angels join in the happiness and all Heaven is filled with joy. The best part is that Jesus will never leave or forget you. Just like the woman stopped everything to find the important coin, Jesus will always stay with you and never forget you because you are important to Him.

In the story that Jesus told, the sheep and the coin are people who need to know about Jesus. What did the shepherd and the lady do? They tried to find them! We need to do the same thing—we must try to find people and tell them about Jesus. We have the best news to tell them. They can go to Heaven and be with God if they trust Jesus and believe. God forgives them for all the wrong things they have done and accepts them into His family. They are not lost anymore! If you would like to be in God's family, talk to me about it.

Just like the shepherd and the lady looked for the sheep and the coin, Jesus will always stay with us; He will never forget about you. Sometimes people who love Jesus decide to do things that are not what Jesus wants. They try to do things their way instead of God's way. Do you think that Jesus leaves them because they are doing wrong? No! Jesus is sad and wants the person to come back to God. Just like the shepherd went to find the lost sheep, Jesus comes to find the person who has run away. Jesus loves you so much that He will find you and take care of you. **NOTHING** can separate you from Him—when you have asked Him into your heart. He will stay with you **FOREVER**. He is your forever friend. Isn't that great news! Jesus will always be with you if you believe in Him and ask Him into your hearts.

Learning Activities

There are lots of fun games and crafts to help reinforce the lesson. Choose things that will best help your kids learn and apply the lesson.

Memory Verse Activities

Try letting the kids print the verse as tiny as possible. You may want to bring a magnifying glass to check their work.

Prayer Time

Ask the kids to think of some of their friends or family that do not know Jesus yet. (Remind them about the lost sheep and coin) Pray silently and ask each one to pray for these friends/family. Close by asking God to help us tell these friends about Jesus.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Enjoy sheep food (see the sheet) or marshmallows that represent sheep. You may even want to get some chocolate coin candy.

Planning for February 22
How does Jesus become "The Boss?"
Zaccheaus
Luke 19:1-10