

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for

Life of Christ

The Lost Sheep Story

Matthew 18:12-14

Younger Verse

Jesus said "I am the good shepherd." John 10:14

Older Verse

Jesus said "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me." John 10:14

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.

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.*

The strict teachers who came to listen to Jesus were upset at the people Jesus was hanging around. They believed that these people were not worth anything. They began to say bad things about Jesus because He hung out with them.

Jesus heard their conversation. He turned to look at them and told them a story.

"Imagine that you are the owner of 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 steep rock. Finally your search is a success! 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.

Lesson Goals

To remember that everyone is special to Jesus
Understand that just like the person searched for the sheep, Jesus searches for us and brings us to God

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.

In the story that Jesus told, the sheep are people who need to know about Jesus. What did the shepherd do? He 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.

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

From construction paper, cut 3 to 5 different shapes. Write several words of the verse on each shape. Punch a hole in the top and attach with yarn to a coat hanger to make a memory verse mobile.

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. Another idea is to decorate cupcakes or muffins with frosting and top with marshmallows to resemble sheep.

Planning for September 7th
The Story of the unmerciful man
Matthew 18:21-35

Preschool Lesson
For
The Story of the Lost Sheep

Jesus told a story to help us know that God loves us very much.

“Imagine that you are the owner of 100 sheep. One night, as you count them (pretend that you are counting), you find that 1 sheep is missing. What will you do? Are you going to settle for the 99 other sheep or will you look for the lost little sheep? Of course, you will go look for the lost little sheep!

“You look in every bush and by every rock. You will listen to see if you heard the sound of the sheep (make a baaa sound). Finally, you find the sheep! When you get back home, you tell everyone the good news and have a party to celebrate.

Jesus said that that’s how God feels about people. Everyone in Heaven is happy when one person believes in God.

God loves us so much. He will always care for us and make sure we are safe and cared for.

Sing this song to the tune of “Baa Baa Black Sheep.”

Little lost sheep, tell me where you are (put your hands to your eyes as if looking for sheep)
Please don’t wander very far.

It is dark and very cold. (Hug yourself and shiver)

Please come back into the fold. (Move hands towards yourself as if motioning to come)

Little lost sheep, tell me where you are (put your hands to your eyes as if looking for sheep)
Please don’t wander very far.

Hands-On Activities For The Story of the Lost Sheep

A fun game to play is the "Lost sheep" game or blind tag. Let one person be "it." The others will need blindfolds. The sheep that is "it" will hide and make soft baaa noises. The other children who are blindfolded will try to find the sheep. The first one to find the sheep is "it." (This may be hard if the children try to peek.)

Make the Good News Sheep out of a paper roll.

Create a shepherd and sheep puppet using craft sticks.

Glue cotton balls to a sheet of paper to make a sheep. Write the verse on it.

Talk about who each person can invite to church next week. Bring bright paper and make special cards to invite them.

For preschoolers: Hold up all ten fingers. "Here are some little lambs. Let's count them." Wiggle each finger in turn as you count. "1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10." Touch one finger. "This little lamb is happy." Continue touching each finger in turn as you say, "This little lamb is happy," until you get to nine. "They are all safe in the sheepfold." Touch the tenth finger. Look sad. "But this little lamb is sad. It has lost its way." Hide the "lamb" behind your back. Hold up the thumb of the other hand. "This is the shepherd." Begin saying (not singing) the words of the song as a finger play, letting the shepherd follow the action of the words - looking here, there, high and low. Bring out the lamb when you say, "ba-a-a." Clasp hands as shepherd and lamb hug.

Hide sheep patterns around the room. Let the kids look for all the sheep!
