

Teacher's Lesson for children

Life of Christ

The Lost Sheep & Coin Luke 15:3-10

Younger Verse

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. Revelation 3:20

Older Verse

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with me. Revelation 3:20

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.

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 important. 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 to show them that everyone was important to God.

"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.

Before the people could respond to Jesus' story, He told them another story.

"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 a search of her little house. She shines her lamp into all the dark corners, then she gets 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."

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

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 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.

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. You may even want to get some chocolate coin candy.

Planning for Sept. 12th
Story of the Lost Son
Luke 15:11-32

Preschool Lesson
For
The Story of the Lost Sheep and Coin

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.

There was also a woman who had ten silver coins (count to 10). One day, she saw that she only had nine coins. (Make a gasp sound as you count to nine.) Quickly, she looked and looked on the floor until she found her coin! She was so happy and told all her friends the whole story.

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.

(You can also substitute the coin for the sheep in the song.)

Hands-On Activities For The Story of the Lost Sheep and Coin

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. (You can also adapt this song for the story of the lost coin, making it clink when it is found)

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

Make coin rubbings or bring unusual coins for the kids to examine!

Sing about the little coins by using the little song, “One little, two little, three little Indians” substituting the word “coins” for the word Indians.
