

The lost sheep



Bible verses: Luke 15:1-7



Aim:

To better understand the reason for Jesus' parables, and to know God wants a relationship with everyone



Today's fruit: Patience

Resources: Baa, Baa lost sheep, Hidden sheep craft



Memory verse

'Depend on the Lord.

Trust him, and he will take care of you.'
(Psalm 37:5 ICB)



Today we are going to hear a story Jesus told about a lost sheep.

Show the children a toy sheep or a picture of a sheep. Ask them to close their eyes and count to 10 together (while a leader hides the object). Ask the children to find the object. You can do this a few times. If space is tight, hide a small sheep under one of three cups, move them around, and see if they can guess where the sheep is!

Share it

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Share a child-friendly version of Luke 15:1-7 (eg Biblegateway.com *ERV/EASY*) or watch the following clip.

One Lost Sheep (God's Story) by Crossroads Kids' Club (3:21) Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Have you ever lost anything? What was it, and how did you feel when it went missing?
- Did you look for it? What did you do? Did anyone help you?
- Did you find it and, if so, what did it feel like?
- How do you think the sheep felt when it was lost?
- How do you think the shepherd felt when they realised the sheep was missing?
- What might the shepherd have felt when they were searching?
- How might the sheep and shepherd have felt when the sheep was found?
- Why do you think the shepherd celebrated?
- Why do you think Jesus told this story?
- What does it tell us about God?

Teach the children the *Baa baa lost sheep* rhyme and actions, using the handout to quide you.

Talk together about us being like the sheep and God being the shepherd who never wants us to be far away from him or lost, and who finds us and carries us and cheers when we are back together again.





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'Every day of the week' (pre-school worship) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (1:29)

'Wonderful Lord' (official video) by Doug Horley (3:13)



Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Play a game of Hide and seek.
- Make a Hidden Sheep using paper plate and split pins - see handout
- Pray together using some of the actions from the rhyme, eg 'Sometimes we are lost (cover eyes); thank you, Jesus, that you keep us safe' (hug).
- Complete a lost sheep maze (eg Truewaykids.com Pinterest).
- Role play searching for a lost sheep, finding it and celebrating.