

# The lost sheep


**Bible verses:**

Luke 15:1-7

A lost sheep


**Aim:**

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


**Today's fruit:**

Patience



Today's parable is all about a lost sheep.

This month we will discover more about four of Jesus' parables. Jesus often used parables to teach people how to follow him and share his love with others. The lost sheep teaches us that everyone is precious to Jesus, no matter what they have done or how lost they are.

God demonstrates patience with us as he waits for us to come close to him.

**Each child will need:**

- Memory verse wristband
- Resources to retell the parable, eg props, paper and pens, puppets ... - see Action It
- A sheep cutout from the *Sheep prayers* handout and pens/pencils
- *Explore It ideas* handout

**You will need:**

- To prepare a hidden/lost items activity - see Start It
- Today's fruit sign: *Patience*



## Start it

**Ask:**

- Have you ever lost anything?
- What was it, and how did you feel when it went missing?
- Did you ever find it and, if so, what did that feel like?



Start with an activity where the children have to find lost things. There are lots of options for this activity. Any activity that involves the children hunting for something that is difficult to find will be perfect! For example:

- Hide several items in the room and ask the children to find them.
- Give the children a list of items to find, like a scavenger hunt.
- Bring a selection of *Where's Wally* books to see who can find him the quickest.
- Or use one of the following clips where the children need to find things.

***Hidden Pictures Puzzle #4 (dog show 2020)*** by Highlights Kids (3:06)

***Find the Hidden Picture Challenge: Fruit Edition*** by Games4esl (5:03) This one is tricky!

## Sing it

Display the *Patience* sign.

### **Say:**

In today's story the shepherd patiently searches for his lost sheep. God grows the fruit of patience within us. Today's song reminds us to be patient with others, just as God is patient with us.

## **Song**

**'Patience' ('Herbert the snail' with lyrics)** by Wesley's Wuppets (2:40)

## Share it

### **Ask:**

Have you heard the word 'parable' before? If so, describe what one is.

### **Say:**

A parable is a story used to teach a great truth or to challenge people to change the way they are living their lives.

### **Ask:**

What parables do you know? Share them with the group.

### **Say:**

Jesus once told a story about a lost sheep. There were all sorts of people listening, from tax collectors to religious leaders. Let's watch the clip to find out more.



## Video

**One Lost Sheep (God's story)** by Crossroads Kids (3:21)

**Watch: 0:00-0:48** 'So Jesus told the Pharisees a story, to teach them a lesson about God.'

### **Say:**

The teachers of the law were angry with Jesus because he was spending time with people they didn't think were good enough or special enough. Their laws told them they shouldn't spend time with people like that.

### **Ask:**

- Why do you think the religious leaders were so angry with Jesus?
- What do you think about Jesus spending time with people who weren't making good choices?

### **Say:**

In the very last sentence of the clip we heard that Jesus was about to tell the religious leaders a story. Before we carry on watching, let's read the story in Luke 15:3-7.

Two translations are provided, depending on your group's understanding.

## Option 1

**'So Jesus told them this story: 'Think about a man who has 100 sheep. He may lose one of them. What does he do then? He leaves all his other sheep in the fields. Then he goes. He looks for the sheep that he has lost. He looks until he finds it. When he finds the sheep, he is very happy. He lifts it up and he puts it across his shoulders. Then he carries it back home. He speaks to all his friends and to the people that live near him. He says, "I have found the sheep that I lost. So come to my house and we can all be happy together."** When one person stops doing wrong things, it is like that. It makes those that live with God in Heaven very happy. They will be happier about that one person, than about 99 people who already obey God.'

*(Luke 15:3-7 Easy English Bible)*

## Option 2

**'Then Jesus told them this story: "Suppose one of you has 100 sheep, but he loses one of them. Then he will leave the other 99 sheep alone and go out and look for the lost sheep. The man will keep on searching for the lost sheep until he finds it. And when he finds it, the man is very happy. He puts it on his shoulders and goes home. He calls to his friends and neighbours and says, "Be happy with me because I found my lost sheep!" In the same way, I tell you there is much joy in Heaven when one sinner changes his heart. There is more joy for that one sinner than there is for 99 good people who don't need to change.'**

*(Luke 15:3-7 ICB)*

**Watch: 0:49-2:53** 'And that's the story of the shepherd and one lost sheep.'

**Ask:**

- How do you think the shepherd felt when he noticed that one of his sheep was lost?
- How did he react when he found the lost sheep?
- The people listening thought about what it meant to be a good shepherd. How did they describe a good shepherd?
- What message did Jesus want the religious leaders to hear about the people?
- What celebrations take place in Heaven when one person believes in Jesus for the first time?
- How does this story teach us that everyone matters to God?

**Say:**

Jesus' parable shares the message that God loves everyone. Jesus is explaining to the religious leaders that those who have walked away from God's care are the ones we should be searching for. Jesus wants us to love and care for those who are lost because they need to know God's love.

Give each child a *Memory verse* wristband.

**Say:**

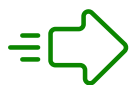
Our memory verse for this month reminds us that staying close to God is the best choice that we can make. Jesus loves those who are lost, but ultimately he wants us all to follow him as he is the Good Shepherd. Let's read the memory verse together.

**Memory verse**

**'Depend on the Lord.**

**Trust him, and he will take care of you.'**

(Psalm 37:5 ICB)

**Action it**

Explain that the children are going to create their own version of the story of the lost sheep. You can guide this activity based on the resources you have available and the skills of your group. They may like to write new words to a well-known song, telling the story of the lost sheep. They could create a comic strip or poem. They could even retell the story using puppets. The most important thing is that they remember each part of the story and communicate the message that God loves everyone.

Watch the last part of the *One Lost Sheep* clip to recap the story.

**Watch: 2:53-end.**

- Jesus told stories called parables.
- One parable is about a shepherd and 100 sheep.

- One sheep got lost.
- The shepherd left the 99.
- The lost sheep was found.
- The shepherd threw a party because God cares about every single person.

The children can share their versions of the story together.



## Pray it

### Say:

For our prayer time, we are going to pray for the people in our lives who do not know Jesus yet. There may also be those who used to follow Jesus and no longer believe in him. These people are very precious to God.

### Ask:

Take a moment to think about the people in your life who do not know Jesus yet. Which person would you like to pray for?

Give each child a cutout sheep from the *Sheep Prayer* handout, to write their prayer on. As the music plays, ask the children to write a prayer for their person who does not know Jesus. If they feel comfortable, then they can share their prayers when the music ends.

## Listen

**'Reckless Love' feat Cory Asbury (short for kids)** by Stehen Miller (2:59)

## Key dates (optional)

### Say:

This weekend is *Farewell Sunday* within The Salvation Army, in the UK when some officers move from one church to another. We are going to spend some time praying for all the adults and children who will be moving to a new place.

Spend time praying with your group and then bring the session to a close.



## Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.

## The lost sheep

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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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



### Pray

This week we thought about all the people we know who do not know Jesus. Choose one person and promise to pray for them every day. This person matters to God and is like a lost sheep. If you get the chance, tell them about Jesus. If it helps, imagine the celebrations that will take place in Heaven if they decide to follow Jesus.



### Watch

Snuggle up with someone at home and watch this beautiful retelling of the lost sheep.

***Lost Sheep* (paper stop motion short film)**  
by Lukas Rooney



### Song for the week

**'Patience' (Herbert the snail with lyrics)**  
by Wesley's Wuppets



### Memory verse

**'Depend on the Lord.  
Trust him, and he will take care of you.'**  
(Psalm 37:5 ICB)



*Kids Alive!* Online – [salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive)

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Children  
& Youth