

Bible Lesson

22. The Lost Sheep

Matthew 18; Luke 15; John 10



Jesus said, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost!"

Luke 15:6

The Lost Sheep

Some Jewish leaders were mad at Jesus. They didn't understand why he welcomed sinners. They grumbled and said, "He even eats with sinners."

So, Jesus told them a story: "Let's say a man has 100 sheep and one sheep gets lost. Will he leave the 99 sheep to go look for the lost sheep? Yes.

"The shepherd will call the sheep by name. He will climb up and down mountains. He will look until he finds that lost sheep. When he finds the sheep, he will pick it up and carry it home with joy. He will call all his friends and neighbors and shout, 'Rejoice with me! I have found my sheep that was lost!'

"I tell you, it is the same in heaven. There is happiness in heaven when one sinner says he is sorry for his sins. There is joy with the angels when one sinner comes home to God."

Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Jesus does not want one little sheep to wander away from him.

Questions

1. What does the shepherd do when one of his sheep goes missing?
2. How does the good shepherd feel when he finds his lost sheep?
3. How are people like the sheep in this story?
4. How can you stay close to your good shepherd, Jesus?

Pray this Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
I know that I am a sinner.
Still, you found me and
welcomed me home.
Please help me to stay
close to you.
Amen

Write your name on the lamb.
Write Jesus' name on the Shepherd.
Write in the arms of Jesus how you
can stay close to him.



Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Have you ever been lost? How did you feel?
- b) How did you get found? How did you feel?
- c) What dangers might a little, lost innocent lamb face in the wild?

After you read:

Welcome Home!

Use this Bible story as a way to welcome new believers into the kingdom of heaven. Have a Welcome Home party package prepared in advance. After the story, ask for a commitment time. For the child who accepts Jesus as Lord, throw a party, like the angels in heaven. Include: confetti, music, a brand-new, personalized children's Bible, a congratulations card, a certificate (see below), and cupcakes...after all this is the first birthday for the child who is now born again!

Happiness in Heaven

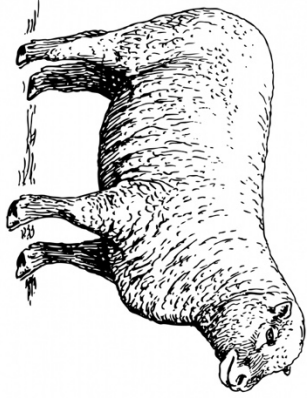
Go through the story and find at least four references to the joy that Jesus feels when a lost person comes home. Have the kids write those references and their names and thank-you prayer on a poster board after they have stated their commitment to Him. Then they smear glue all over the poster and throw confetti up. It lands on the poster, dries, and can be hung up as a Happiness in Heaven reminder.

Lost and Found

Make a corral out of chairs. In the room, hide a stuffed lamb or draw one on card stock and glue cotton balls on the lamb. Read together John 10:3-18. All the kids search for the missing lamb, name him, and bring it into the corral. The finder becomes the hider. Ask the kids if they are a lamb who has come back to God. If so, give them a certificate (see below).

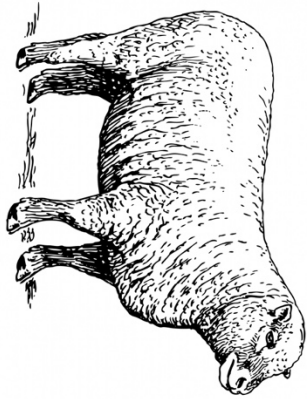
Or use the sheep on the Lost and Found page below. Photocopy onto cardstock so that each child has one sheep. Cut and fold them so they stand up with the Bible verse on the back side. Let the kids write their name on the sheep and place it into the corral. As they say the Bible verse, they can take their own sheep out of the corral with a prayer of thanks for the Good Shepherd who seeks and saves the lost.

Lost and Found



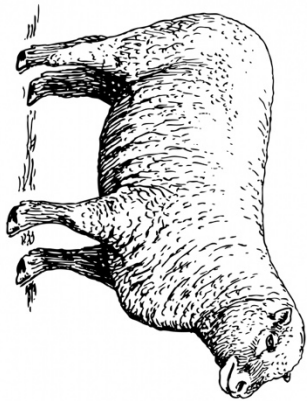
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Congratulations

Child of God

Jesus said, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!" Luke 15:6

I once was lost but now am found.

Name

Date of committing to Christ

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me. No one can snatch them out of my hand."

John 10

