

Vacation Church School

Life of Christ #3

The Lost Lamb

“For the son of man is come to save that which was lost.” Matthew 18:11

Scripture References: Matthew 18:11-18, Luke 15:3-7, John 10:14

Goals: By the end of the lesson the student will be able to:

1. Know the story is from the Bible
2. Relate the events of the story
3. Understand that Jesus has come for each of us and he does not want to lose even one of his people.

Introduction:

Materials Needed:

- Picture of a lamb and shepherd
- Pictures of large groups of children, people, and animals

1. Show the pictures. Ask the children what they see. Guide the conversation to the fact that the pictures all show large groups of children, people, or animals. Ask them if they think it would be easy for one of the people or animals to walk away from the group without anyone noticing.
2. Ask the children to think of a time when they have been lost. How did it make them feel? Where were they? What happened? Who helped them find their way back?
3. Ask the children if they were in a large group and got lost would they want someone to come and find them? Would they go looking for just one person or animal if there were still so many who were still there? Tell them that Jesus told a story about doing exactly that. The story is about a shepherd who went looking for just one lost lamb. Show the picture of the shepherd and the lamb. Tell them the parable this story is based on can be found in the book of Matthew and the book of Luke. Read the scripture references after the story.

Lesson:

Materials Needed:

- Copy of the story
- Bible
- Optional materials: pictures of the events in the story to show while reading

The Lost Lamb

Once there was a shepherd who had one hundred sheep he was taking care of. The shepherd knew each sheep and called them by name. Every morning the shepherd took his sheep out to find new green grass to eat and cool water to drink. Sometimes the path was rough and rugged. Sometimes there were deep holes and steep rocks where one misstep could cause a sheep to fall down the mountainside.

Sheep can't see very far ahead of them and without someone to guide them they are sure to get lost. It was easy for a lamb to fall into a deep hole or pit if they weren't careful. A sheep could easily break

a leg or starve to death if he wasn't found by his shepherd. But the shepherd knew the way, and he always led the flocks of sheep down the right paths and kept them away from the dangerous trails. Lions, bears, and other wild beasts often hid in the bushes and trees waiting to catch a little lamb or sheep that wandered from away from the shepherd. If a wild animal attacked the sheep the brave shepherd would see them and quickly send a stone from his sling to protect the sheep.

Bringing the sheep back in at night the shepherd counted his sheep as they entered their home. There were supposed to be one hundred sheep, but he found there were only ninety-nine sheep; one was missing. The shepherd got the other sheep settled and safe, and then went out to find his one lost sheep.

Up the mountainside the shepherd went. He called the lost sheep by name, almost slipping several times on the dark path. Finally he was near enough for the lost sheep to hear him. The lost sheep recognized the shepherd's voice and bleated out a baa-aa to the shepherd. The shepherd looked over a huge rock and found his lost sheep stuck in a thorn bush. The shepherd was so happy to find his lost sheep!

The shepherd spoke softly to the sheep and calmed him as he pulled the sheep free from the bush. He placed the sheep on his shoulders and carried him quickly home. As he walked he called out to his friends that his lost sheep had been found. He wanted everyone to celebrate with him that he had found the one who had wandered away. The good shepherd put the lost lamb back with the ninety-nine other sheep and rejoiced with his friends on finding the lost sheep.

Who does this good shepherd remind you of? It is Jesus. Jesus said "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. We are often like the lost sheep when we are disobedient and leave the path God has set up for us to follow. Jesus did even more for us than the shepherd by giving his life for us. He loved us so much that he died for us, so that every lost person could be found.

We are all important to Jesus. Even when we make mistakes and find ourselves lost He is still there waiting for us. He will search for us, but it is up to us if we will allow Him to lead us back. We find his directions in the scriptures. They help us stay on that straight and narrow path and keep us from getting lost.

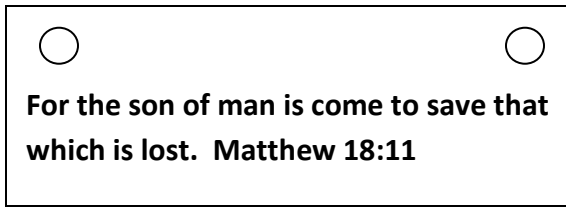
Memory Verse Activity:

Materials Needed:

- Poster board cut into rectangles (any color), 1 per child +1 to use as an example
- Hole punch
- Scissors
- Yarn cut into pieces long enough to use as a necklace, 1 per child +1 to use as an example
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils

1. Prepare ahead of time by writing the memory verse on the pieces of poster board and punching holes in the top corners.

Example:



2. Let children decorate the cards if you choose.

3. Give each child a piece of yarn and have them tie it through the holes to make a necklace.

Story Craft: Sheep

Materials Needed:

- Black construction paper cut into shape of a sheep (profile), 1 per child + 1 to use as an example
- Craft sticks, 2 per child + 2 to use as an example
- Wiggly eyes, 1 per child +1 to use as an example
- Cotton balls, stretched out to look like sheep wool, enough for each child to cover their sheep
- Glue, 1 per child
- Construction paper (any color), 1 sheet per child + 1 to use as an example
- Crayons, markers, colored pencils

1. Begin by showing the children a completed project that you did ahead of time so they can see what they will be making. Then give each child one piece of construction paper to use as a background.

2. Pass out two craft sticks and glue to each child. Have them glue the sticks to the paper for the sheep legs.

3. Give each child one of the sheep shapes and have them glue it on top of the legs.

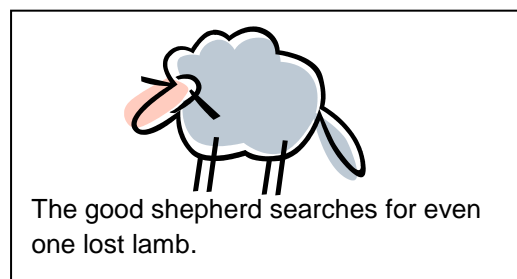
4. Next pass out the stretched out cotton balls to each child and have them cover their sheep with wool. Be sure not to cover the face so they can still put the eye on.

5. Give each child one wiggly eye to glue onto the sheep face.

6. Have each child write on their paper: The good shepherd searches for even one lost lamb.

7. If you choose have the children decorate the background.

Example of completed project:



Review Activities:

Review Worksheet

Give each child one worksheet and a pencil. They can complete it on their own or with a partner. Take time when they are finished to review their answers as a group. (**Answers to worksheet questions:** 1. Jesus, 2. Matthew and John, 3. 100, 4. Matthew 18:11, 5. Answers will vary)

Lost Lamb Hide and Seek

You will need to go outside for this activity. Choose one child to be the lost lamb. The others will be the shepherds. The shepherds close their eyes and counts to 30 while the lamb hides. The shepherds then go off on their own to find the lost sheep. When one of the shepherds finds the sheep they quietly stay there with them. As each shepherd finds the sheep they all join them in the hiding place until the last shepherd finds the group.

Find the Lamb

This can be done inside or outside. Choose one child to be the shepherd and have him or her stand outside of the room (or inside if you are playing outdoors). While they are outside have another child hide the lamb (you can use any small object for this) somewhere in the room. Have the shepherd come back inside to search for the lamb, with the other children saying "HOT" when they are close or "COLD" when they are moving farther away.

Lost Lamb Review

Name _____

Read each question and write your answer in the space provided.

1. In the story there was a good shepherd who went searching for his one lost lamb. Who is our good shepherd who guides us back when we are lost? _____

2. In what books of the Bible can you read the parable of the lost sheep?

_____ and _____

3. How many sheep did the shepherd in the story have all together? _____

4. What is the scripture reference for your memory verse? _____

5. What are some things you can do in your life to stay on the path God has for you and not get lost?
