Preschool–Grade 6

The Lost Coin

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I matter to God.
Bible passage: Luke 15:8–10. Read Luke 15:1–10 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." *Luke 15:10 (KJV)*. The old words mean: **in the presence of** means right there with, and **repenteth** means says sorry to God and turns back to Him.
You need: a Bible, 10 paper circles colored gray, a flashlight, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 15. Hide one gray circle somewhere easy to find.

1. Opening game: Where Is It? (5 minutes)

Lay out the 9 other circles. Count them together slowly, pointing to each one. "Nine! But there should be ten. One is lost!" Kids walk around the room and look for the lost one. When a child finds it, everyone claps. Say: "Today we will hear a story Jesus told about a woman who lost something, and she looked and looked until she found it."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 15. Say: "Jesus told this story. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

A woman had ten pieces of silver (Luke 15:8). *(Hold up ten fingers.)*
Oh no! She lost one (15:8). *(Put one finger down. Make a surprised face.)*
She lit a candle (15:8). *(Hold up one finger like a candle.)*
She swept the house (15:8). *(Sweep with both hands.)*
She looked and looked (15:8). *(Hand over your eyes; look all around.)*
Say it with me: "Where is it?"
She found it (15:9)! *(Hold up your hand like you are holding a coin.)*
She called her friends and neighbours (15:9). *(Wave everyone over.)*
"Rejoice with me! I found it!" (15:9). *(Jump and clap.)*
Jesus said heaven is happy when one person says sorry to God (15:10). *(Point up and smile.)*
Say it with me: "I matter to God!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. How many pieces of silver did the woman have? *(Ten, Luke 15:8)*
2. What did she light so she could look? *(A candle, 15:8)*
3. What did she do when she found it? *(She called her friends and was glad, 15:9)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.' That means heaven is happy when someone says sorry to God and comes back to Him." Teach the motions: big smile on "joy," point up on "angels of God," hold up one finger on "one sinner," and turn around in place on "repenteth." Say it with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Luke 15:10" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Ten Pieces (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw ten round pieces of silver (circles), and color them gray. Help them count to ten. While they color, ask: "How many did she lose? What did she do when she found it?" Kids who finish early can play Where Is It? again with the flashlight.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, that I matter to You.
Thank You for loving me. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep it simple and happy. Use the flashlight for the candle; never light a real flame. If they get wiggly, do the sweeping and the jump-and-clap again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

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