Preschool–Grade 6

The Lost Coin

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Every person matters to God. God looks for the lost, and heaven is glad when one person turns back to Him.
Bible passage: Luke 15:1–10. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." *Luke 15:10 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 10 paper circles colored gray, a marker, tape, a flashlight, a broom or hand brush if you have one, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 10 paper circles (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 15:8.

1. Opening game: Count to Ten (5 minutes)

Lay the 10 gray circles on the floor and count them together: "One, two, three... ten!" Kids close their eyes. Hide one circle somewhere in the room. Kids open their eyes and count again: "Only nine! One is lost!" Hand a child the flashlight to look for it while everyone helps. When it is found, everyone cheers. Play a few times. Say: "Today Jesus tells about a woman who lost one of her ten pieces of silver. Let's see what she did."

2. Bible story: The Lost Piece of Silver (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 15, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Many people came to hear **Jesus**. Some of them were **publicans**, men who collected taxes, and some were people everyone called **sinners** (Luke 15:1). Some leaders called **Pharisees** and **scribes** grumbled about it. They said, "This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them" (15:2). That means, "Jesus welcomes sinners and even eats with them!" So Jesus told them some stories called **parables** (15:3).

First Jesus told about a man with a hundred sheep who went looking for the one sheep that was lost (15:4–7). Then He told about a woman.

Read Luke 15:8 from your Bible: "Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?" Say: "Jesus asked a question: what woman wouldn't look hard for her lost piece of silver? A **piece of silver** was a silver coin. **Seek diligently** means look very carefully and don't give up."

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The story continues: So picture it. The woman had ten pieces of silver, and one was lost. She lit a **candle** so she could see (15:8). *(Turn on the flashlight.)* She swept the house (15:8). *(Sweep with the broom or your hands.)* She looked and looked, until she found it (15:8)!

When she found it, she called her friends and her neighbours together. She said, "Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost" (15:9). **Rejoice** means be very, very glad!

Then Jesus said, "Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" (15:10). **Likewise** means in the same way. A sinner who **repenteth** is someone who is sorry for their sin and turns back to God. When even one person does that, there is joy in heaven!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. How many pieces of silver did the woman have? *(Ten, Luke 15:8)*
2. How many did she lose? *(One, 15:8)*
3. What three things did she do to find it? *(She lit a candle, swept the house and looked carefully, 15:8)*
4. What did she do when she found it? *(She called her friends and neighbours to rejoice with her, 15:9)*
5. When is there joy in the presence of the angels of God? *(When one sinner repents, 15:10)*

4. Memory verse: Find the Lost Piece (5 minutes)

Tape the 10 circles on the wall in order: *Likewise, / I say / unto you, / there is joy / in the presence / of the angels of God / over one sinner / that / repenteth. / Luke 15:10.* Explain the old words: **likewise** means in the same way, **in the presence of** means right there with, and **repenteth** means is sorry for sin and turns back to God. Read it together. While the kids close their eyes, take one circle away and hide it. Kids open their eyes, say which piece is lost, and one child finds it with the flashlight. Put it back, and everyone says the whole verse. Play until the kids can say it without looking.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The woman didn't give up on one lost piece of silver. You matter to God even more than that! God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it, and heaven rejoices (Luke 15:10). We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.
This week: be kind to someone who is left out. Everyone matters to God.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **lost coin word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/lost-coin-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/lost-coin-craft), or **Sweep and Seek:** one child is the woman and steps out of the room or covers their eyes. Hide one gray circle. The child comes back with the flashlight (the candle) and searches while the class says "Seek, seek, seek!" softly when far away and louder when close. When the child finds it, they say, "Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost!" and everyone cheers. Play again with a new child.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that every person matters to You. Thank You that You look for the lost, and that heaven rejoices when someone turns back to You. Help us be kind to everyone. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

Teacher note: Jesus told this parable as a question: "what woman… doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?" (Luke 15:8). The lesson tells it as a short story, the way Jesus pictured it. Use the flashlight in place of a candle; never light a real flame with children.

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