

# The Lost Sheep

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

**Main point:** God loves every one of us, and He looks for the lost.

**Bible passage:** Luke 15:1–7. Read it yourself before class.

**Memory verse:** "to seek and to save that which was lost" *Luke 19:10 (KJV)*. The old word **seek** means look for.

**You need:** a Bible, 10 small paper sheep (or toy sheep), a toy or paper sheep to hide, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

**Before class:** put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 15. Line up the 10 paper sheep on a table.

## 1. Opening game: One Is Missing! (5 minutes)

Count the 10 sheep together, touching each one. Kids close their eyes while you hide one sheep in the room. Count again: "Nine! One is missing!" Kids look for it, and everyone cheers when it is found. Play two or three times. Say: "Today we will hear a true story Jesus told about a lost sheep."

## 2. Bible story (5 minutes)

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

Many people came to hear Jesus (Luke 15:1). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*

Some leaders grumbled about it (15:2). *(Make a grumpy face and cross your arms.)*

So Jesus told a story (15:3). *(Open your hands like a book.)*

A man had a hundred sheep (15:4). *(Hold up all ten fingers, then wiggle them.)*

One sheep got lost! (15:4) *(Hold up one finger and look around.)*

The man went looking for it (15:4). *(Hand over your eyes, look left and right.)*

He looked and looked, until he found it! (15:4) *(Point and smile.)*

**Say it with me: "He found the lost sheep!"**

He put the sheep on his shoulders (15:5). *(Pat your shoulders.)*

He was so happy! (15:5) *(Clap your hands.)*

He went home and called his friends (15:6). *(Wave "come here.")*

He said, "Be happy with me! I found my sheep!" (15:6) *(Jump once.)*

Jesus said heaven is happy when one person comes back to God (15:7). *(Lift your hands up high.)*

**Say it with me: "God loves me!"**



### 3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. How many sheep got lost? (*One, Luke 15:4*)
2. Did the man keep looking? (*Yes, until he found it, 15:4*)
3. Where did he carry the sheep? (*On his shoulders, 15:5*)

### 4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus came 'to seek and to save that which was lost.' Seek means look for." Teach the motions: on "to seek," put a hand over your eyes and look around. On "and to save," hug yourself. On "that which was lost," hold your hands out wide. Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Luke 19:10" 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: Draw the Found Sheep (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big round sheep with a happy face. They can color green grass under it. While they color, ask: "How many sheep got lost? Who looked for it? Was he happy when he found it?" Kids who finish early can hide and find the paper sheep again.

### 7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, God, for loving me.

Thank You that Jesus came to look for the lost. In Jesus' name, amen."

**Tips for little ones:** keep the story moving and let every child hold a paper sheep. If they get wiggly, play One Is Missing! again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

**If a child asks, "Am I a lost sheep?":** answer simply and gently. Everyone has done wrong things (Romans 3:23), so everyone needs Jesus. Jesus loves you, and He came looking for us. Encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor.

