

Jesus's story about the good shepherd

Luke 15:1-7



AT11

Aim: to learn that God loves us and cares about us even when we feel far away from him



Jesus often answered questions with a story, many of which the gospel writers wrote down – stories that contained truths about God and how he wants us to live. The story of the lost sheep helps us to understand just how much God loves each and everyone of us, and how he never stops looking for us, even when we wander a long way from his way



Encourage everyone to join in with the actions:

Point to the window; point to the door! Point to the ceiling; point to the floor! Clap your hands: one, two three. Then fold your arms and listen to me.

Jesus told today's story to help us to understand just how much God loves us and wants to be our friend



Before the session hide a toy lamb somewhere in the room. As you tell the story search around the room just like the shepherd, eventually finding the toy lamb

Read 'The Lost Sheep'

The shepherd didn't judge the sheep that got lost, or tell it off - he was just glad that he could take it safely home



- *I wonder whether Jesus thinks I am one of the sheep in the fold or one that needs looking for*
- *I wonder what the sheep was thinking and feeling as it wandered away from the sheepfold*



Read 'Runaway Sheep' (p76) in Bob Hartman's 'Play along Bible'

Read the other 'Lost' stories in Luke 15 and talk about how they compare and contrast

Play a game trying to rescue a lost sheep with a shepherd's crook if you have one or a paperclip on a piece of string and a paper sheep with a magnet stuck on it



- Use the templates to make a lost sheep by decorating them with cotton wool/tissue paper



- Play hide and seek (or peekaboo with the very young babies) pretending to be a shepherd looking for the lost sheep
- Hide small objects in some playsand or spare packaging for the older toddlers to find
- Play musical statues asking everyone to pretend to be a sheep when the music stops



Sing these words to the tune of 'Old Macdonald's farm'. As you say the word 'love' give yourselves or someone else a big hug

Jesus loves us very much, eieio.

It doesn't matter where we are eieio.

he loves us here

and he loves us there,

here a love, there a love, everywhere a love, love.

Jesus loves us very much, eieio

Amen



- Jesus love is very wonderful
- Big thumbs tough



Encourage families to watch a video of the lost sheep story at home

[https://youtu.be/ Ry2MaMyvGo](https://youtu.be/Ry2MaMyvGo)

