

Good morning!! Here is a collection of activities for all ages that you can do as a family this week. My hope is that this lesson can help you connect together as a family and with God and will open up some authentic discussion as a family.

The King Who Teaches- Parables

What He has done: Jesus taught that God finds those who are lost.

Lesson Aim: To recognize we wander like sheep and Jesus is our Shepherd..

1. Setting the story:

Jesus is the King who teaches. As our Teacher, Jesus told stories called parables to teach us about His kingdom. Today, we will hear the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Just as the shepherd watches over and rescues any lost sheep, Jesus is our Shepherd who watches over us.

2. Telling the story

Here is a link to a video of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ry2MaMyvGo>

Preschool version of the story:

Jesus is the King who teaches us. He tells us stories about His kingdom.

- Do you like to hear stories?
- Did you know Jesus was the best storyteller of all? His stories are the best stories of all because they help us understand the kingdom of God.

Today, we will hear the story Jesus told about the lost sheep. We know a good shepherd will always search for his lost sheep.

Just as the shepherd finds his lost sheep, Jesus always finds us when we are lost. He promises to watch over us wherever we go. It is great to hear that there is a celebration in heaven whenever someone chooses to follow Jesus. When we choose to follow Jesus, we are just like the lost sheep who was found.

Jesus told of one lost sheep,
That far away did roam.
The shepherd left his flock to seek,
And bring his lost sheep home.

When his lost sheep was found,
The shepherd called his friends.
He gathered everyone around,
To celebrate there and then!

Preschool discussion:

- What will the shepherd do if he loses a sheep? (Search for the lost.)
- What does the shepherd do when he finds his lost sheep? Read Luke 15:5-6a. (He takes it home and celebrates.)
- The shepherd does not want to lose any of his sheep. He will leave the other sheep safe in their pen to search for the lost one.
- Pretend you are the shepherd. Search for your lost sheep. Children shield their eyes with their hands and look around the room.

- The sheep was lost. Do you think the lost sheep was afraid? (Yes.)
- How do you think the lost sheep felt when it was found?
- Do you think the shepherd was happy when he found his lost sheep? (Yes.)

Elementary age version of the story:

While He lived on earth, Jesus taught His disciples many things about His kingdom. He taught them by the things He said and did. Jesus also taught through parables. Parables are stories that help us understand the kingdom of God. Today, we will hear the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

As we read, imagine Jesus Himself telling us this story. **Read Luke 15:4-7.**

Elementary age discussion:

- Why do sheep wander? (They nibble at grass further and further away from their shepherd until soon, they are lost.) Grass far away is the same as grass near the shepherd's feet.
- How is nibbling on grass far away unwise for a sheep? (The sheep may wander into danger or become lost.)
- The sheep can stay close to the shepherd and still eat. In this story, the lost sheep stands for a sinner—someone who has done wrong in God's eyes.
- Who does the shepherd stand for? (Jesus.)
- Why do we wander away from Jesus? (Sometimes we focus so much on other things that our hearts wander away from Jesus and we forget to stay close with Him.)
- If you wander away from Jesus, how can you call out to Him? (Pray.)
- How can our hearts stay close with Jesus? (Think about Him; pray and read the Bible; as we make choices, think about what He wants us to do.)
- Why is it unwise to do our daily activities without remembering to stay close with Jesus? (We forget to do what Jesus would do. We may be tempted to sin—to do things that are wrong in God's eyes.)
- How might remembering that Jesus is with you help you make choices that are right in God's eyes?
- What does the shepherd do when he finds his one lost sheep? (He joyfully puts it on his shoulders, brings it home, and invites his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him.)
- To repent is to turn back to God and do things His way.
- What did Jesus say happens in heaven when one sinner repents? (There is rejoicing, which is celebrating.)
- What is the best celebration you have ever had?
- A shepherd knows when one of his sheep is missing or in danger. He never gives up until he finds his lost sheep.
- Is the shepherd angry with the sheep for wandering away? (No.)
- Do you think Jesus is angry with us when we wander from Him? (No.)
- How is Jesus like a shepherd to us? (He watches over His followers, He knows when we are far from Him or in trouble with sin, He brings us back to Him when our hearts wander from Him.)

3. Prayer

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us, loving us and taking care of us. We lift up to You a special prayer for _____. We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.

4. Games (from the curriculum- you may need to play with your kids to fill out the teams):

SEARCH FOR THE SHEEP (preschool kids)

Purpose: Children will search for lost sheep and celebrate like the shepherd did.

Supplies: Ten sheep (For example: ten pictures, Lost and Found Sheep crafts, toys, or large cotton balls)

Prepare: Hide one of the sheep where children can find it later.

Teacher Tip: This game can also be played by choosing one child to be the shepherd for each round of play.

Directions:

1. Display 9 sheep.
2. Pretend you are shepherds. Here are your ten sheep. Can you count the sheep with me?
Children repeat each number after you.
3. Oh, no! We are missing a sheep. Quick, see if you can find the missing sheep!
4. Children search for the missing sheep. When it is found, place it with the other sheep.
5. You found the lost sheep! Let's celebrate.
6. Children cheer.
7. Play again, as time allows

SEARCH FOR THE SHEEP (older kids)

Purpose: To find the lost sheep just as Jesus finds us when we are lost.

Supplies: One sheep (toy, large cotton ball, or picture)

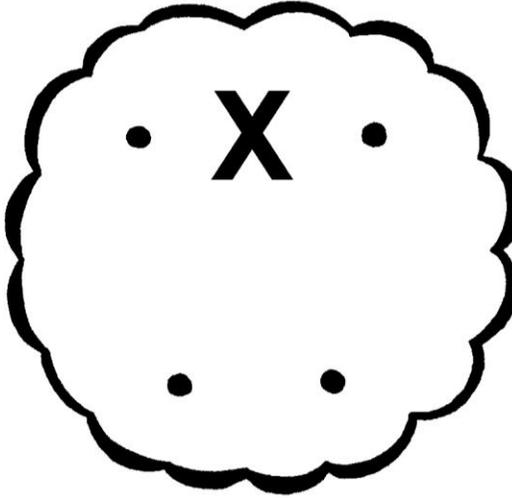
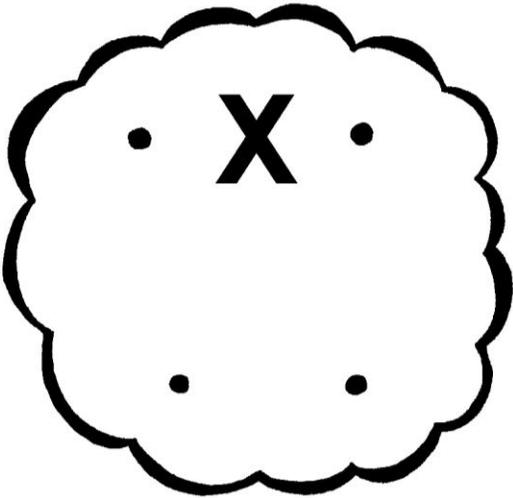
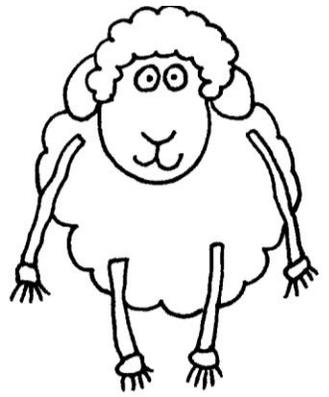
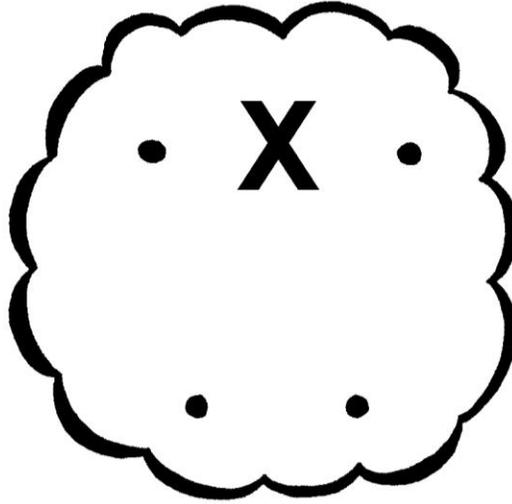
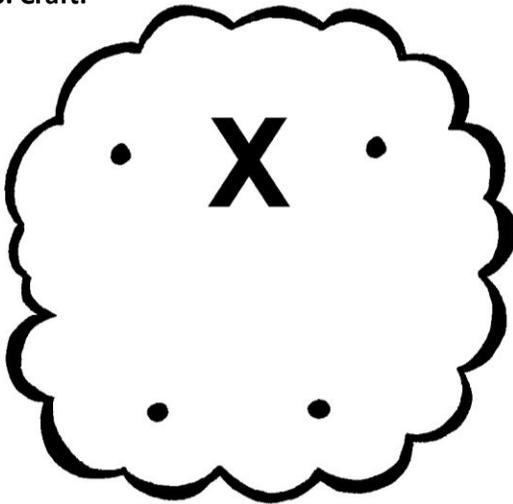
Optional: Place a robe and a shepherd's crook in the center of the circle for the child searching for the lost sheep to wear as a costume.

- Jesus told parables.
- What is a parable? (A story that teaches a lesson.)
- Jesus told people many parables to teach them about God's kingdom. In our Bible story, we heard Jesus' parable about a shepherd who searched for his lost sheep. Let's play a game where we search for a lost sheep.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Choose one child to hide the sheep while the other children cover their eyes.
3. When the sheep is hidden, the child touches the head of one of the children in the circle and says, "You are the shepherd! Your sheep is lost!"
4. The children open their eyes and cheer, "Find the sheep!" while the shepherd jumps up to search for the lost sheep.
5. The child who hid the sheep may give clues to the shepherd by saying "warmer" when the shepherd is closer to the sheep and "colder" when further away.
6. After the shepherd finds the sheep, repeat steps 2 through 6 to play again.

5. Craft:



Print the sheep design on to white card.

Cut out the shapes.

Make four holes where the four dots are.

Thread thick short wool or cord through the four holes from the back.

Knot at each end.

Glue head on to X

