



Jesus is Our Teacher – The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1-7

God Statement: Jesus is Our Teacher

KEY VERSE: “With God, all things are possible.”
(Matthw 19:26b, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: Jesus is Our Teacher

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God inspires us to serve others.

SAY:

Think of your favorite toy. Everybody thinking of one? Okay, now imagine you are playing with it one day, and the next day, you can’t find it anywhere. Show me with your face how you might feel when you realize you have lost your most favorite toy. *Give kids a few moments to react/respond.* Those are all very accurate reactions. You might feel really sad, or angry, or upset.

Losing something we love can be really difficult. But now imagine you have spent two days looking for it, and you finally find it under your bed in the far far corner... Show me with your face how you might feel when you finally find your favorite toy! *Give kids a few moments to react/respond.* I bet you would be so excited and happy, right?

Today, we're going to hear about the parable of the Lost Sheep. Do you remember what a parable is? It's a story that Jesus would tell in the Bible to help teach people a lesson about God. We're going to find out more about this lost sheep later, but for now, let's play a game!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Find the Sheep

Supplies: 4 sheep cut outs

Say: *We're going to play a game today to help us get ready to hear about the parable of the lost sheep. Are you ready? We're going to practice searching for the lost sheep.*

Directions: Have children take turns hiding the sheep. Choose 2 children to close their eyes in the front of the room. Have one or two children hide the items. Then have the other children play "hot and cold" giving the children hints as they try to find each item (hot means they are getting closer, cold means they are getting further). Play for a few rounds before beginning the lesson.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

BIBLE CHALLENGE**Host**

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

New Testament Books of the Bible

Share with the kids about our current Bible Challenge:

Our current Bible Challenge is for kids to memorize the Books of the NEW Testament right now. Use the song provided in the PowerPoint to help the kids practice the song each week. Encourage kids to take a "Bible Challenge" card home to remind them to practice at home as well!

****After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

WORSHIP & CHLOE'S RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

CHLOE'S RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Chloe's Rules in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Chloe's Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

**"With God, all things are possible."
(Matthew 19:26b, NIRV)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER

The Wardrobe of Wonder is an opportunity to get the younger kids engaged in the lesson by playing a guessing game to determine what the "What's It" is inside the wardrobe each week.

Choose one child to “spy” on the What’s It by peeking inside the wardrobe. Remind the other children to look away and to not peek. Have the peeker whisper the identity of the What’s It in the host’s ear to ensure he/she saw it correctly.

What’s It: TELESCOPE

Now, invite the class to raise their hand and guess the identity of the What’s It by asking yes-or-no questions about it. Allow the child who peeked to help answer the questions. Once the children have guessed correctly, retrieve the What’s It from the wardrobe and allow the class to look at it/pass it around. Thank the volunteer and allow them to sit back down.

ASK:

Hmm... What do you use this for? I am not sure what this thing is for... Do you know? Oh, you’re right. You are supposed to look through it! When you look through a **telescope**, it helps you see things far away! I wonder how this relates to our story today. Let’s find out more. Do you know what time it is? It’s time for us to dive into God’s Word together!

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK’S LESSON: Jesus is Our Teacher – The Lost Sheep

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through this time.

Supplies: baskets with cotton balls

We’ve been hearing the parable of the Lost Sheep today. Did you hear about the verse right before Jesus tells the parable in Luke 15?

Let’s read it together – **Elementary optional to have kid read verse.**

Luke 15:1-2 – “The tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were whispering among themselves. They said, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’”

- What do you know about Pharisees?
 - Yes, they thought they were pretty great, but they had very hard hearts and didn’t love Jesus.
- What do you know about tax collectors? What about sinners?
 - What did the Pharisees think about them? What did Jesus think about tax collectors and sinners?
- Do you realize that Jesus loves the tax collectors and sinners?
 - He could change their hearts when they came to Him.

Let’s read Luke 19:10 – ***Elementary optional to have kid read verse.***

Luke 19:10 NIRV “The Son of Man came to look for the lost and save them.”

Lost can mean “lost” like the little lost sheep was.

- Can you think of another way the word “lost” can be used?
 - It can mean lost – like not knowing God. Jesus came for us while we were lost (not knowing God) and He wants to save us.

Let’s sit for a few quiet moments and think about how we were lost.

- Do you feel lost? You can tell Jesus right now that you want Him to find you.
- Do you feel found? Jesus loves you!
- Do you know someone who is lost? Pray for them right now. Pray that they will let Jesus find them.

Let kids quietly reflect for a few moments with soft worship music playing in the background. Then, gather attention to the front for the final response piece.

Take a cotton ball. Think about you or someone who is lost like the little sheep. The cotton ball can represent the lost sheep. When you are ready, put the cotton ball in the basket with the other sheep and pray for the lost ones.

Encourage kids to respond to the cotton ball activity individually and sit back down after completed.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the Compassion & Offering slides.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus’ Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child’s life and the

impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ELIC & Iraq

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: For the next couple of weeks, we’re going to be focusing on what God is doing in the country of Iraq. Have any of you heard of the country of Iraq before or know where it is on the map? ***Point to Iraq on the classroom map.*** This is where Iraq is, and it’s pretty far away, isn’t it? Well, in the country of Iraq, there is a lot of violence, war, and division, especially amongst people who believe different things about God.

Say: There is an organization called ELIC – let’s say that together, ELIC – who sends teachers to this country of Iraq to help teach the English language. ELIC started sending English teachers to Iraq and other countries because they felt God calling them to do so!

Say: Through teaching English, these followers of Jesus have had many opportunities to share God’s love with the people they encounter in Iraq. Isn’t that amazing? In a country with so much pain, violence, and hurt, God is still finding ways to show His love!

Say: It’s probably not easy to be a teacher in this country... Do you think that would be easy to live somewhere you don’t know and teach people another language? Especially in a place with so much division? Let’s take a few minutes and pray for the ELIC teachers there – that God would continue to protect them and give them opportunities to share His love.

Invite a kid to come up and pray for the ELIC teachers. Encourage kids to take a prayer card at checkout to continue praying at home.

******After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.******

BLESSING**Host**

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, may you always remember to run back to the Good Shepherd, Jesus. He looks for you. He waits for you, even when you mess up. And be kind to your friends who don't know Him. Ask God for a way to lead them to Him.

SMALL GROUP**Classroom Teachers****(10 minutes)****Younger Kids:**

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: Luke 15:1-7**

What was lost in the story? (a sheep)

Why should they care about the sheep that was lost? (Because all of them matter to God!)

3. **Have you ever lost something special? How did it make you feel to find that special item that was lost?**
4. **Just like the lost sheep is celebrated when he finds his way home, God celebrates when we accept Jesus into our hearts and follow Him too! When we accept Jesus we are no longer lost, but have been found and have hope! Do you know someone who has accepted Jesus or have you accepted Jesus into your heart?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE: Sheep Bookmark!

Supplies: sheep cut outs, google eyes, folded paper squares (one per child), glue

Directions: Pass out one colored (folded) paper corner to each child. Give them a cloud shape paper, two small black strips, a paper head, and 2 google eyes. Have them glue the sheep pieces together on the front of the corner paper to create a bookmark.



Say: *Today we learned about the parable of lost sheep! We're going to make this special bookmark to remind us that God loves us so much and celebrates when each of His sheep are found!*

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.