



## Jesus Is Our Teacher – The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1-7

### Jesus is our Teacher

KEY VERSE:

**“With God, all things are possible” Matthew 19:26 NIRV**

## CHECK-IN

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*Purpose: To build relationships with families and help parents feel comfortable leaving their child.*

*As parents check-in their child at your classroom, try to welcome them by name to help them feel secure in leaving their child in your care. Once you’ve completed each of the check-in procedures, welcome the child into your classroom and encourage him/her to play with the classroom toys and activities. If you have LITs in your classroom, this is a great time for them to help engage with the kids while you continue checking in the kids.*

*If a child is upset or reluctant to enter the room, encourage him or her by offering toys, books or other fun items. If a child is still upset, let the parents know that we will text them if their child continues to be upset. Then, offer to carry the child into the classroom and try to calm the child with toys or other activities.*

*Use the “Connect” reminder (listed below) to help kids feel comfortable and safe in your class!*

## CONNECT WITH KIDS

*Purpose: Building relationships & prioritizing safety for our youngest children.*

Our goal, first and foremost, when serving babies and young toddlers is to prioritize building trusting relationships and the feeling of safety. We build trust with our littlest kids by meeting needs and helping them learn that church is a secure place where they are loved, known and safe.

**The 4 Ss are a simple way to keep our hearts and minds focused on this:**

When a child feels...(most of the time)

**SAFE:** physically and emotionally

**SEEN:** known and understood

**SOOTHED:** calmed and supported

They can become **SECURE.**

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

(10 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: The Lost Sheep

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how Jesus is our Teacher. He taught a story about a lost sheep.

**Say:** Do any of you remember who the best storyteller of all is? Jesus, that's right! Jesus told His followers stories to help them understand about God's love. God loves each of us SO much! How much does God love you? Show me with your arms... That's a lot of love! Today we're going to hear about a lost sheep and how the shepherd found it.

### MAKE: Little Lost Sheep Hide and Seek

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** Have all children sit in a group by you. Have all the kids cover their eyes. Tell one child to go hide in another part of the room. If they need help, suggest a spot.

**Say:** *Where is my little lost lamb? (Encourage hidden lamb to say "baa, baa.") Oh hooray, there she is! (Go get the lamb and bring back to the fold. An LIT would be a great one to get the lamb.) Let's all say "Hooray! Our little lamb is found."*

**Repeat until everyone has a turn to be the little lost lamb.**

## CLEAN UP

(5 minutes)

*Have the children begin cleaning up as you transition into Large Group time. All the toys should be put away by the end of clean up time.*

*Try singing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."*

## LARGE GROUP

(15 minutes)

*After clean up, have your class gather around the story time rug/blanket/squares and Hamilton's house for Large Group time. .*

### WELCOME & PRAYER

Tell the kids you are so excited to have them joining you this morning and give them a brief explanation of Large Group and the expectations of them during this time. After going over the expectations, pray to open large group time.

## WORSHIP

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children through the power of music!*

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex (Miss Mindy) to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, **go to Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s folder.**

- *God is so Good*
- *Jesus Loves Me*

## READ A BIBLE STORY

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children in a meaningful way by teaching God's word!*

This week, read about a story, **The Little Lost Lamb** in **Jesus Calling Storybook Bible.**

### **BIG IDEA:**

**Our Father God is like a shepherd. He doesn't want any of His little lambs (that's YOU) to be lost from Him. Just as a good shepherd leads his sheep home, God will lead to heaven everyone who says they are sorry for their sins and believes in Jesus. (from Jesus Calling Bible Storybook)**

As you read, try to engage the child(ren) even more by pointing to the pictures as you read, allowing the kids to turn the page or repeating key words and phrases. It's ok if you don't read every word on the page! Kids have very short attention spans (1 minute for each year of age) so try to keep your interactions short and don't get discouraged if a child loses focus!

### BIBLE STORY (5-7 minutes)

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

*Using the props and Hamilton puppet, tell the story for the day. Make sure to keep it brief and engaging by asking the kids questions throughout and using Hamilton to keep their attention.*

***Before class, hide Hamilton somewhere in the classroom where he can be seen.***

**Say:** Let's invite Hamilton to come out to see us. Hamilton, come out. Wait, Hamilton isn't in his house. Where is he? Call out, "Hamilton, where are you?" Will you help me call for him? "Hamilton, where are you?" Kids, stay seated. Can you see with your eyes where Hamilton is? Oh there he is! ***Someone retrieve him.*** Hamilton, did you get lost? ***Hamilton nods.*** Well, you're back again with us. I'm glad you're safe. This reminds me of a story in the Bible. Hamilton, sit with us and hear this story Jesus taught.

**Read the on The Little Lost Lamb in Jesus Calling Bible Storybook, page 168.**

**Say:** Oh, the shepherd found the lamb! How do you think the lamb felt when it was lost? I think it was sad and scared. Can you make your face look sad and scared? Hamilton, was that how you felt when we couldn't find you? ***Hamilton nods.***

**Say:** The shepherd found the lamb! How do you think the lamb felt when the shepherd found her? I think she was very happy. Can you make your face look very happy? Hamilton, was that how you felt when we couldn't find you? ***Hamilton nods.***

**Say:** Hamilton, I'm so glad you are found. It's time for you to go back home. Let's all tell Hamilton goodbye. ***Put him away in his house.***

### **SAY IT OUT LOUD! (30 seconds)**

*This is the opportunity to remind the children of the God Statement for the day. Even if they struggle to pay attention during the lesson, this part is important to do every week.*

We are learning that **Jesus is our Teacher!** (Have the kids shout it out together multiple times).

### **WORSHIP RESPONSE (2 minutes)**

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 the time.

***Encourage class to sit quietly.***

**Say:** Have you ever been lost? Being lost can be a little scary.

**Say:** Our Father God is like a shepherd. He doesn't want any of His little lambs (that's YOU) to be lost from Him. Just as a good shepherd leads his sheep home, God will lead to heaven

everyone who says they are sorry for their sins and believes in Jesus. *From Jesus Calling Bible Storybook*

**Ask:** Are YOU sorry for your sins, for the wrong things you do? Do YOU believe in Jesus? That makes God very happy. He loves you very much. Some day He will lead us to heaven.

*Close time in prayer.*

## BLESSING (1 minute)

*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.*

*Say: Friends, may you always remember that Jesus loves you very very much!*

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

(Until parents pickup)

### MAKE: Coloring Sheet

*Supplies: coloring sheet and crayons*

**Directions:** Encourage the kids to use the crayons to color their pages as bright and colorful as they can. Make sure to send the paper home if they don't have time to color, so that parents can see what they learned from the day.

*Say: Let's color this picture of a shepherd holding his sheep he just found as a reminder of how much God loves each of us!*

**While you are working with each child, ask:**

- What happened to the sheep?
- Who went to find the lost sheep?
- It looks like the shepherd loves the little lamb a lot.
- What does a sheep say? What is a little sheep called?

## PLAY!

*Purpose: Engage our youngest children by playing games and having fun!*

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class. This is a great opportunity to introduce kids to classroom games and encourage interaction and participation with others.

**Suggestions of activities:**

- Hide an object and let kids find it
- Name and count parts of the body
- Discuss colors & numbers
- Turn on music and play freeze dance
- Have kids follow simple instructions (hop, sit down, clap, etc.)
- Read a board book
- Build a tower and let kids knock it down
- Play with a ball

## CHECK-OUT

### (end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in free play. Follow the check-out procedures for your classroom, making sure to send all of the child's belongings (diaper bag, bottle/sippy cup, pacifier, blanket, etc.) with the parent.

Give the parent encouragement about how the child did in your class and say "Bye (child's name)!"



**Luke 15 - The Lost Sheep  
Jesus is Our Teacher!**