

Parent Sheet: The Lost Sheep & Coin

What's happening in this story?

When tax collectors and sinners come to eat with Jesus, some Pharisees criticize him for associating with them. In response, Jesus tells two parables. In the first, a shepherd leaves his ninety-nine sheep to go find one lost sheep; and in the second, a woman searches her entire house for one lost coin. These stories demonstrate how it is God's nature to search for the lost, and God rejoices when the lost are found. Jesus showed by eating with these people that while they may be lost and doing bad things, he still loved them.

What does this story mean for kids?

Most kids will hear this story very literally and may not relate the parables to sin or doing something wrong and dishonoring God. Kids will understand the concepts of lost and found, so this might be the best way to explore the story with young kids. They will also understand that God wants them to be kind or take care of their things. The coin and the sheep didn't come back on their own. The people in the story had to take initiative to look for them. Help kids understand this is what God is doing with us.

Opener:

Who has a favorite toy at home to tell us about?

- How does anyone know it is yours?
- Do you keep it safe? Does it have your name on it?
- What if you went to find your favorite toy and it was gone? Give kids time to respond.
- Stand up and start walking. If you were going to look for your missing toy. Where will you look? Will you always find it the first time?

Today's story is about how God finds what is lost. Jesus uses sheep and coins to tell this story. We call this story a parable.

The Bible Story:

Read the story from Luke 15:1-10. Ask these questions after you read the story:

- How do you think the shepherd and the woman feel when they realized something was lost?
- Where did the shepherd look for his one lost sheep?
- How do you know where to look for something lost?
- What do you do when you find something you've lost?



Pass out leaflets and markers:

Unfold and tear off leaflet square with the maze.

1. **In our story today, the shepherd and a woman knew what was lost and wanted to find it.**
2. **Find the Whirl characters in the maze in this order: Ada** (in the trees), **Monty** (behind the rocks), **and Tot** (in the center). (Teacher note: the maze is challenging. Encourage kids to go from, Start here, to Ada and then Ada to Monty and finally Monty to Tot.)
3. **Begin at Start here, and try to find each friend by marking the way to them in the maze with a pencil. When you find each friend, shout "Alleluia" and do a *happy* dance! Then begin again and go to the next friend.**
4. When each group has finished, come say, **When something is lost, we want to find it. When we find it, we are happy and rejoice. God likes to find what is lost and rejoice too!**

Circle up with kids for a quick review:

What happened to the lost sheep and the lost coin? Allow kids to respond.

The sheep was found by the shepherd and the coin was found by the woman. The shepherd and woman didn't give up and rejoiced when they found what was lost. God is like the shepherd and the woman. God finds what is lost and rejoices.

Pass out leaflet panels and a marker or pen:

Jesus wants all people to learn about God. Invite kids to fill each balloon with the names of their family members and friends. Remind kids to include themselves!

End with a blessing:

Circle up with kids. **God blesses all of us. And that means me** (place a hand on your chest).

And that means you (place your other hand on the shoulder of the child next to you).

Each person passes the blessing by repeating those words and actions.

When the blessing makes it back to you, say, **Go and bless the world.**

Extras: The Back of the Leaflet has fun activities to choose from and do at home.