



**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS**

**WITH MRS. RENEE**

## **Jesus Looks for Us!**

May 24, 2020

### **PARABLES OF LOST SHEEP AND LOST COIN**

Based on Dig In: Life of Jesus by Group Publishing Inc.

#### **READ:**

Luke 15:1-10

USE THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES TO REINFORCE THE STORY WITH YOUR CHILDREN:

#### **FINDING GAME**

You'll need:

- 10 coins
- 15 – 20 cotton balls or other things to represent sheep

**SAY:** Jesus wants each person – including you – to know that Jesus loves us so much that He Looks for Us (clap it) and wants to be with us. Just like the man in the story looked for his one lost sheep! I have these 15 (or whatever number you have) cotton balls that we are going to pretend are our herd of sheep. Close your eyes and count to 25.

Hide the cotton balls while the kids are counting to 25.

**SAY:** Be sure that you find all 15 (or however many you have) sheep!

Once all of the “sheep” are found, Say: Good job! You found all of the sheep. Just as you looked for all of the cotton balls, Jesus Looks for Us (clap it). He wants ALL of us to be with him. Your herd is complete now and no one is missing!

**SAY:** Remember Jesus’ second lost story about the woman and her 10 coins? We are going to search for the coins like we did the sheep. Hide your eyes again and count to 25.

Hide the coins while the kids are counting to 25.

**SAY:** Be sure to find all 10 coins!

Once all of the coins are found,

**ASK:** What was easy or hard about finding all of the sheep and all of the coins? What helped you keep looking, even if you wanted to give up?

**SAY:** Jesus never gives up looking for us! The sheep and the coin really mattered to the man and woman who lost them. You matter to Jesus. We all matter to Jesus. He cares a lot for us and that’s why Jesus Looks for Us (clap it). And why he’ll never stop looking until everyone is found, no matter what.

## HIDE AND SEEK IN THE DARK

You can reinforce this story later on, when it is dark. Do this in your backyard or turn out the lights and do it inside. Use some flashlights to find the people who are hidden. Have fun with this as long as you want.

Talk about:

- Why it was fun to look for the people who were hiding
- What were the best hiding spots
- Something you'd hate to lose and why
- Remind everyone that Jesus Looks for Us (clap it) because God's family isn't complete without everyone!

## WHAT'S MISSING

Gather 10 random items from around your house and put them on a tray or cookie sheet. You'll also need a towel or cloth big enough to cover the tray or cookie sheet.

**SAY:** Jesus Looks for Us (clap it). He loves us so much and always wants us to be close to him as a friend. Just like the man who knew when one of his sheep was missing, Jesus loves each of us and sees each of us. We are going to play a game where you'll have to use your memory to figure out which object is missing when I take one away.

- Allow a few minutes for everyone to study the tray of objects.
- Have everyone close their eyes. Take one object away and hide it behind your back or in the cloth. If you have peekers, cover the tray with the towel or cloth as you sneak one item off the tray.
- Play several rounds and give others a chance to be the one who takes one object away.
- For added difficulty, take more than one item away.

**ASK:**

- Was it hard to remember what object was missing?
- What's something you would try really hard to find if it was lost?
- Why would you look hard for that thing?
- Be sure to let the kids know your answers to those questions too.

**SAY:** If you look really hard for something, it shows how important that thing is to you. You are important to Jesus. We matter so much to Jesus that, Jesus Looks for Us ALWAYS! (clap it).

## COLORING

Print the picture of the woman looking for her lost coin. If you don't have a printer, draw a picture of her looking for her lost coin.

As you are coloring or drawing, wonder about these questions:

- Where am I/you in the stories Jesus told?
- How am I/you like the man who lost his sheep or the woman who lost her coin?
- Do I/you ever feel like the lost one?
- Have I/you lost something or someone and not paid attention?
- Is there someone I/you take for granted?
- What or whom have I/you forgotten to count?

## NOTE TO PARENTS:

There are no right answers to these questions, the value is in the wondering alongside your children. The book that I read was *Who Counts?* By Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, Illustrated by Margaux Meganck. The questions above are asked at the end of the book in *A Note to Parents and Teachers*. It takes a little different interpretation of these parables. It does not seek to erase the traditional focus on repenting and forgiving, but suggests an additional message of counting, searching for what is missing, and celebrating becoming whole again. The authors suggest that if we take the above questions seriously and act on them, we will be better able to love our neighbor.

There are several children's books by these authors and I highly recommend them all. I hope that these lessons are providing you an opportunity to journey with your children in exploring our faith and what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Grace, peace, much love,  
Mrs. Renee



Luke 15:8-10