

Sunday between September 11 and 17 – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 15:1-10](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/properc19.htm>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-cwvx.htm#p24> – word puzzles to print

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/24-c/F-24-c.html>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/lostsheep.htm>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/lostsheep.htm>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/gods_lost_and_found.htm

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/lost.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pen15les.htm>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pen15art.htm>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Welcome everyone. Go around the group and have everyone say their name and tell one favourite thing that happened during the summer. With the children come up with a set of agreements on how the group will behave together. You may want to check [this website](#) to learn more. Print them up on newsprint and post them where everyone can see them. Thank the children for their work on this.

Print the word “**Lost**” up on the newsprint. Ask the children to name something that they have lost and how they felt about it. Write up the answers and their feelings under the word ‘lost’. Print up the word “**Found**” on the newsprint. Ask the children to name something they found and how they felt about it. Write up their answers and feelings under the word ‘found’. Explain that in today’s story they will hear about God’s reaction to lost and found.

Story Time

Instructions

- Get settled together in a comfortable way to hear and tell today's story.

Jesus was travelling all around the country, with his friends, teaching the people he met about God's love and how God wants everyone to be in the world. Some of the people who had done bad things in their life, started to behave in a better way because of what Jesus was telling them about God and God's welcoming love.

Some of the leaders, the Pharisees, began to grumble and complain about this. They said, "Look Jesus hangs out with people who have done bad things. What does he think he is doing? God is not going to like that!"

Jesus decided to tell them a special story, a parable. A parable is a story that helps us to understand more about God. Here are the parables:

There once was a shepherd who had one hundred sheep. One of the sheep became lost in the wilderness. The shepherd decided to leave the ninety-nine behind and went looking for the lost sheep. He hunted everywhere that he could think – behind hedges, in the valleys, up high on the hills – until he found the sheep. He carried the sheep home on his shoulders.

The shepherd called together all his friends and neighbours and said to them, "Be happy with me! Rejoice! I have found my sheep that was lost!"

There once was a woman who had ten silver coins. One of them was lost in her house. The woman took her broom and swept and swept. She swept in all the corners, she swept under everything in the house, she even swept the ceiling, until she found her coin.

The woman called together all her friends and neighbours and said to them, "Be happy with me! Rejoice! I found my coin that was lost!"

Jesus looked at all the people who were listening: the leaders who weren't happy with him, his friends, the people who were trying to live their lives in God's love. Jesus said to them, "Just as the shepherd and the woman rejoiced over finding their lost item, so everyone in heaven, God and all the angels, rejoice when one person decides to come back to God's love!"

Response

Project Idea 1: Lost and Found Picture

This response will be a concrete way for the children to experience the lost and found experience of the story.

Materials needed

- light construction paper
- white or yellow crayons
- brown or black tempera paint in small containers
- paint brushes
- water
- newspaper
- sheep image at end of lesson

Instructions

Water down the paint until it is quite thin. Lay out newspaper on the work area and place the paint containers in handy positions. Give each child a piece of light construction paper. Show them the sheep image. Invite the children to draw one or two sheep and ten coins (use a quarter to show them how big) on their paper with the white or yellow crayon. Suggest that they press as hard as they are able to on the paper. Explain that the drawings now look the sheep and the coins are lost. Give them each a paint brush and invite them to wet it with the paint and then brush over their drawings with it. They will notice that the shapes they drew are now 'found'. Encourage the children to share the stories of the lost sheep and lost coin with their families by showing them their drawings.

Project Idea 2: Church Invitation

If your church is taking part in Back to Church Sunday then you may want to have the children make these invitations to give to their friends or family. Inviting people to church is a good direct response to the parables that we hear this week.

Materials needed

- card stock
- fine line markers
- stickers (of churches, or other religious ones if you have them)
- tissue paper and glitter
- glue sticks
- other craft materials you think might work

Instructions

Fold the card stock in half. On the inside print "**Please join us at Church's_ Name on Sunday XX** (please write the date when your church is doing a Back to church event). **You will be more than welcome!**" Give each child a prepared card. Explain to the children that the church is inviting friends and family to join them for a special service on a Sunday soon. Read to them the inside of the card. Ask them to think about who they would like to invite to church. Then invite them to decorate the outside of the card with the craft materials provided. When they are finished remind the children to pass their invitations on to the person they want to invite to church.

Project Idea 3: Rejoice Banners

Materials needed

- construction paper
- staples and stapler
- yarn
- scissors
- white glue
- water
- small containers
- paint brushes
- tissue paper
- magazines and newspapers
- sharpie markers

Instructions

Cut the yarn into 90 cm (36 in) lengths. Fold one short end of the construction paper down. Lay the yarn into the fold and then staple the fold down. Tie the yarn in a knot to make a loop. Make one for each child. Lay the newspapers down to protect the workspace. Pour some white glue into small containers and add about the same amount of water – stir with a paint brush. Give each child their prepared banner. Ask them to remember what both the woman and the shepherd did when the lost item was found – they called their friends and neighbours together and said ‘rejoice’. Have the children print the word “**Rejoice**” in the middle of their banner as big and as fancy as they can with the markers. Then have them tear small pieces of tissue paper and make a collage of colours around the word with the tissue paper, by spreading watered down glue onto the construction paper with a paint brush and laying the tissue paper down over top. Suggest that they overlap the pieces of tissue paper and see what happens with the colours. When they are done, invite them to think about where they might want to hang their banners at home to remember the story of how God rejoices when the lost are found and brought home.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.

Sheep Image

