



Jesus Teaches in Parables



Key Passage

- Luke 15:4–7

Lesson Focus

- Jesus taught by telling stories (parables).

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Temple Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 8 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Jesus taught the people by telling stories or parables. One parable was about a man searching for one lost sheep. He rejoiced that he found it.

Song Time—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Parable Role Play

Students will role play the parable of the lost sheep and act out the parallel meaning of the story.



Activity 2: Lamb Activity

Students will color and/or add cotton balls to the Lamb Picture.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- Print one Temple Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Temple Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough & cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Print and cut out one set of the Lesson Illustrations and Display Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- One bag of 100 cotton balls for Lesson Illustration
- Six Lesson Illustrations
- Three arrow illustrations
- Lesson Display Guide
- Tape or poster putty



PARABLE ROLE PLAY

- Use Lesson Illustrations 1, 2, 4, and 5 from the lesson display.
- Print one Role Play Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- Lesson Illustrations 1, 2, 4, and 5
- Role Play Teacher Guide
- Masking tape



LAMB ACTIVITY

- Print one Lamb Picture from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Students will glue cotton balls onto the picture.
- Complete one Lamb Picture to show.

- Lamb Picture for each student
- Crayons
- Glue sticks or tape
- Cotton balls (from the lesson)
- One completed Lamb Picture



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- If you haven't already done this, print one set of Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM onto cardstock. You will use these for Lessons 8, 9 and 11.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages along with this background.

One of the hallmarks of the teaching of Jesus was His use of parables. A parable is a fable or allegory to illustrate a truth or lesson. It is a story or narrative drawn from nature or human circumstances from which spiritual lessons can be made by comparison. Or to put it simply, a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Parables help the listener to discover the deeper meaning and underlying truth of the reality being portrayed.

Depending on which ones you include, between 35 and 45 different parables of Jesus are recorded in the Gospels. Some of these were longer stories, including such popular ones as the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37), the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32), and the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14–30). Other parables of Jesus were short, pithy statements, such as, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened” (Matthew 13:33).

But why did Jesus teach in parables? There are two reasons given in the Bible: to conceal and to reveal.

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus provided an answer when asked about His use of parables:

And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing,

And their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.’

But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.” (Matthew 13:10–16)

Jesus said that He taught in parables to conceal the truth from certain people, and to reveal it to others. By resorting to parables, Jesus effectively separated the truth-seekers from the mere curious. Those seeking the truth would say, “Explain to us the parable . . .” (Matthew 13:36), while the merely curious could easily be dismissed. They would not ask and were unwilling to receive Jesus’s message. The truths were heard by unbelievers, but the meaning was hidden because they did not want to hear.

In this way, Jesus’s use of parables was a form of divine judgment. As Jesus explained in the passage above, “For whoever has [a good heart, listening ears], to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have [a good heart, listening ears], even what he has will be taken away from him” (Matthew 13:12). Then Jesus quoted from Isaiah 6:9–10 and explained that because the people’s hearts had become dull and because they had closed their ears and eyes, God was going to speak to them in a way that they would not understand. So Jesus taught them in parables. In a way only God could contrive, the very things which were useful to reveal and make clear the truths about the kingdom to those willing to hear were also used to conceal truths about the kingdom from those who would not believe.

About the middle of His ministry, after He had begun to receive much opposition from the religious leaders and had been accused of blasphemy, Jesus started teaching the crowds almost exclusively in parables. Mark tells us that He did not speak to them without a parable, and that when He was alone with His disciples, He would explain the meaning of His teachings (Mark 4:33–34). However, those who had persisted in rejecting His message were left in their spiritual blindness. Although they heard the truths of the kingdom of God, they could not understand them; they were unwilling to hear. The Apostle Paul later described those blinded to the truth as “always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7). They would never hear or understand the words of Jesus (Matthew 13:13). But His disciples (except for Judas Iscariot) accepted His truth and

so were given more to know, understand, and believe (Matthew 13:12).

The parables of Jesus contain great volumes of truth in very few words. The images Christ presents through them are not easily forgotten. And He has promised that for those with eyes to see and ears to hear His truths will be revealed (Matthew 13:16).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND¹

When we read parables, we must be careful how we interpret their meaning. Sometimes, as in the Parable of the Sower, Jesus Himself provides the explanation (Matthew 13:18–22). However, most of the time, the hearers (and us) are left to discern the meaning.

A parable is really an extended metaphor, or an allegory. In fact, the Bible often uses allegory as a literary device. In the Old Testament God speaks of His people Israel using images of a vineyard (Isaiah 5:6–7) and a flock of sheep (Ezekiel 34). Jesus refers to Himself as a shepherd (John 10:11) and a vine (John 15:1–6). And Paul takes a historical event from the Old Testament (Hagar and Sarah) and uses it as an allegory for law and grace (Galatians 4:21–31). So while the Bible uses allegories to teach truth, we must not confuse the literary device of allegory with the hermeneutic of allegorizing Scripture; the two are not the same.

Soon after the completion of the New Testament, early Christians began interpreting the text allegorically. They proposed many symbolic meanings that neither Jesus nor the biblical authors ever intended.

It wasn't until the time of the Reformation in the 1500s that a return to a more literal, historical-grammatical method of interpretation began to take hold. Luther, Calvin, and some others criticized the excesses of allegorical interpretation, but it still remained popular among many Christian scholars and writers into the 19th century.

More recently, in the 20th and 21st centuries, there has been an increased interest in understanding the parables as the original hearers would have understood them. Interpreters started focusing on the main point of the parables—God's kingdom coming through the reign of the Messiah.

Care must be taken when interpreting these parables. Here are a few basic principles to adapt while trying to understand the parables of Jesus and interpret them properly:

1. **Determine the main point of the parable.** Most parables have one main point, though they may have a couple sub points. To get to the main point, ask yourself a few questions:

Who are the main characters? What occurs at the end? What or who gets the most consideration in the parable? To whom is the parable directed? What is the context in which Jesus gave it?

2. **Recognize standard imagery used in the parables.** For example, God is often symbolized as a master, a father, a judge, or a king. A vineyard or a fig tree usually refers to Israel. The harvest refers to the judgment. An enemy is typically the devil.
3. **Note striking or unexpected details of the parable.** Jesus's parables are filled with striking details, unexpected twists, shocking statements, and surprise outcomes. When such attention-getting components occur, pay attention because an important point is being made.
4. **Do not press every detail for meaning.** The many details in a parable are usually given to make the story memorable and interesting. Typically there is one central figure (or two) and one main point. Attempting to interpret every individual detail will lead one to an allegorical reading.
5. **Pay attention to the literary and historical context of the parable.** The authors of the Gospels often clue us to the meaning of a parable by including information about why Jesus uttered that parable or by grouping together parables on similar topics.

Jesus, the Master Teacher, used many parables in His teaching. By some accounts, about one-third of all of Jesus's words in the Gospels are parables. We are called to be diligent to handle His Word carefully as we read it, interpret it, and teach it to others.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.

1. This material was adapted from Robert L. Plummer, "Parables in the Gospels: History of Interpretation and Hermeneutical Guidelines," *SBJT* 13.3 (2009): 4–11.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Good Shepherd, you have scattered your seeds of truth upon my heart; I praise you. Thank you for the truth of your Word. Keep my heart soft, so I will produce good fruit. And Lord, please prepare the hearts of my students so they will hear your truth, repent of their sins, trust you, and bear good fruit for your kingdom.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Temple Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 8.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, bag of 100 cotton balls, six Lesson Illustrations, three Arrow Illustrations, Lesson Display Guide, tape or poster putty, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Thanksgiving is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving—and thank God for the many blessings He's given us. He gives us everything we have. He is good!

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are an awesome God. I want to thank you for . . .
(insert personal prayer).

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer telling God thank you for something special in their lives.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **What is sin?** *Sin is any disobedience against God!*
- ? **Who is a sinner?** *Every person is born in sin.*
- ? **Did Jesus ever sin?** *No. He lived a sinless life.*
- ? **Does everyone go to heaven?** *No. Only those whose hearts are changed and believe in Jesus.*
- ? **What does it mean to believe in Jesus?** *To trust that Jesus alone can save me.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.* *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

Refer to Lesson 7 Flip Chart. In Lesson 7 we learned that while Jesus was on earth, He spent time teaching His friends. He taught that we should obey God because we love Him. We know we can't obey perfectly. Jesus knows that, too! We are sinners and will always sin. And because of that, we can NEVER come to God on our own. But God had a plan. And that is why Jesus came. He came to save sinners like you and me. Jesus is the Savior! He is the only way we can be saved from sin and have eternal life with Him in heaven. Jesus is the only way we can come to God the Father. Hey! That reminds me of our memory verse. Let's say it together. Recite or sing the memory verse, John 14:6, together.

? Refer to Lesson 8 Flip Chart. **Great job! What did we learn last time?** Allow discussion.

Jesus got angry, right? The people were not treating God right. Jesus didn't like that. He wanted His Father to get the respect He should get.

? Where was Jesus? *In the Temple.*

? And what did Jesus find there? *People selling animals, and money changers.*

? What did Jesus do? *Made a whip and drove them all out of the Temple.*

That's right! The Temple was a place to go and worship God, not sell animals. Jesus wanted the people to treat His Father right. He wanted to teach them to respect and honor God.

Jesus taught many things, and He had a neat way of teaching. Sometimes He taught by telling stories. These stories are called parables.

? Can you say that word? *Repeat the word "parables."*

Sometimes Jesus would tell a parable to teach a lesson. The parable would be a story about something that the people knew about, like animals, food, farming, and other things. But in the parable, these things would stand for something else.

We are going to read a parable today. It is from the Gospel of Luke! *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

? Show Lesson Illustration 1. **What is this a picture of?** Allow discussion. *A man, a shepherd.*

Put illustration on the board or display on the floor in the circle. That's right! This parable I am going to read is about a shepherd. He lost something very important to him. Listen carefully and see if you can tell me what he lost. Read Luke 15:4-6 enthusiastically.

? What did the man lose? *Luke 15:4. A sheep.*

He lost one sheep. Look at this bag of cotton balls. There are 100 cotton balls in here. That's a lot! Let's pretend these are the man's 100 sheep. *Dump the bag of cotton balls in one place on the floor or on a table where everyone can see. Now, let's say that one day this little sheep decided to wander off to find some sweet grass to eat. Take one cotton ball from the 100 and move it away from them. Uh-oh! Now the sheep is lost!*

? Does the man still have 100 sheep over here? *No! He only has 99 sheep left!*

? Show Illustration 2 as you add it to your display under Illustration 1. **What is this a picture of?** *One sheep.*

Yes. This is the sheep that got lost. There's something wrong now—one of the sheep is missing.

? The man in Jesus's parable had 100 sheep! But he lost one. What did he do about that one lost sheep? *Re-read Luke 15:4 emphasizing "go after the one which is lost."*

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Luke 15:4-6

➤ Refer to the Lesson Display Guide as you make your lesson display using the Lesson Illustrations and arrows.

Luke 15:7

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart. **Yes! That sheep was his, and it belonged with the others. So the man went out and looked for it until he found it.**

? Refer to Lesson Flip Chart. **What did the man do after he found his lost sheep?** Re-read Luke 15:5. He laid it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

? Refer to Lesson Flip Chart. **And then when he brought the sheep back on his shoulders, what did he do?** Re-read Luke 15:6. He called his friends and neighbors, and they rejoiced with him.

? Show Illustration 3. **What is this picture of?** Allow discussion.

Add Illustration to your display under Illustration 2. **These are the man's friends. They were happy and rejoiced when the man found his lost sheep.**

That's the whole story! But it isn't just a story. It is a parable. And it has a special meaning. What does it mean? I think we can figure it out from the next verse. Listen to this! Read Luke 15:7 emphasizing "more joy in heaven."

? **Jesus is talking about lots of joy. Where will this joy be found?** John 15:7. In heaven.

So there will be joy in heaven—like the joy the man had when he found his sheep.

? **And what will those in heaven rejoice over?** Re-read John 15:7. One sinner who repents.

That's right! Jesus said that there will be joy in heaven when a sinner repents!

? Refer to Illustration 1. **Let's take a look at our display here. Who do you think the man in the parable stands for? Who is the good shepherd? Who came to look for and save the lost?** Jesus.

Yes! Jesus came to earth to find sinners who are lost just like the man found the one sheep that was lost. Now I'm going to put this arrow right here. Place one arrow next to Illustrations 1.

? Show Illustration 4. **What is this a picture of?** Jesus!

Place the picture of Jesus on your display according to the Lesson Display Guide. **That's right. This is Jesus. And in Jesus's parable, this man—the shepherd—stood for Jesus. One sheep was missing, and he went to look for it.**

? Refer to Illustration 2 of the sheep. Place arrow sign next to Illustration 2. **So, who do you think this one sheep stands for?** Allow discussion.

Add Lesson Illustration 5 to your display next to Illustration 2. **This sheep stands for one sinner. Jesus came to save lost sinners. In the parable, the sheep that was lost is like a sinner who needs to turn from sin and believe in Jesus.**

? Refer to Illustration 3 and add an arrow next to it. **And what did the people do when the shepherd found his sheep?** They rejoiced.

Yes. The man's friends rejoiced. And just like the people rejoiced when the sheep was found, Jesus said there is rejoicing in heaven when a sinner repents and turns to Jesus. Add Lesson Illustration 6 to your display.

➤ Refer to the Lesson Display Guide as you make your lesson display using the Lesson Illustrations and arrows.

Refer to Lesson Display as you summarize. **This is a parable**—a story that Jesus taught the people. It had a special meaning. The parable was about a man, a shepherd, who lost one sheep. He found it, and all of his friends were happy!

Continue to point out the pictures in your display. **What does this parable mean?** Jesus is the good shepherd. He looks for His sheep who are sinners and lost. And when He finds them, they turn to Jesus, trust Him, and repent. Then there is GREAT rejoicing in heaven!

SONG TIME

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. **The Bible tells us that Jesus came to seek, or look for, the lost just like the man in the parable looked for his lost sheep. Jesus brings good news to sinners! Jesus gave His life for sinners when He died on the Cross. Believers can be with God forever! Let's sing about that good news.** Sing "Tell the Gospel News."

Jesus came! And whoever believes in Him will never be the same. Only Jesus can change our hearts and make them new. Sing the song "Jesus Came" with me. Sing together with clapping/stomping once or twice.

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Jesus is the ONLY way to get to the Father in heaven. Our memory verse reminds us of that. Let's sing it!** Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times.

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.

➤ Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

➤ Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.



Parable Role Play

MATERIALS

- Lesson Illustrations 1, 2, 4, and 5
- Parable Role Play Script
- Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Use Lesson Illustrations 1, 2, 4, and 5. Choose four volunteers to act out the parts of the man, sheep, Jesus, and lost sinner from today's parable. Tape these four illustrations to the four actors or have them hold the signs. Have the rest of the class rejoice when you tell them to.

Use the Parable Role Play Script to help the children act out this parable.

Today we're going to act out the parable that Jesus told about the lost sheep. And

we're going to act out its meaning, too.

Who wants to help? You will choose the man and his sheep for Part 1 and Jesus and the lost sinner for Part 2.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

A parable is a story that has a special meaning to it. The lost sheep in the parable stands for someone who is lost in sin because they don't know God. The man who searched for his sheep stands for Jesus who came to earth to seek and save the lost. The neighbors who rejoiced when the man found his sheep stand for those in heaven who rejoice when a sinner repents and trusts Jesus as Savior.



Lamb Activity

MATERIALS

- One Lamb Picture for each student
- Crayons
- Glue sticks or tape
- Cotton balls (from the lesson)
- Completed Lamb Picture for sample

INSTRUCTIONS

Print one Lamb Picture for each student. Have students color the lamb's face and legs then attach cotton balls to the main body.

Show completed picture. We're going to color and add cotton balls to this lamb to make it fluffy.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The man went to find the one lamb that was lost! And his friends rejoiced! That lost sheep is just like us. We are all sinners. Jesus is like the man. He came to seek and save lost sinners. When a sinner repents and turns to Jesus there is great rejoicing in heaven!



Memory Verse Review and Activity

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Flashcards, preferably onto cardstock. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card of his choice. Recite the verse again. Continue to choose students to remove cards one at time reciting the whole verse between each one.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say it first. *Point to each flashcard as you say each word and have the students repeat.*

Good job! But wait! I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of our cards down. Then we'll have to say the verse without that card! Do you think we can do it? Of course we can. Are you ready? *Call on a student to take down one card then recite the verse together. Continue until the cards are gone.*

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

- ? Who is the way to God the Father? *Jesus!*
- ? Who is the truth? *Jesus!*
- ? Who is the life? *Jesus!*

Good job! Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the only one who can give us forgiveness of our sins. Jesus is the only way to come to God the Father. Jesus is the Savior!



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

Jesus taught the people about God and about forgiveness of sins and eternal life. He liked to use parables to teach some of His lessons. A parable is a story with a special meaning. The lost sheep is like a lost sinner who needs to repent and turn to Jesus. The man who looked for his sheep is like Jesus who came to earth to seek and save the lost by dying on the Cross. And the friends who rejoiced when the man found his sheep are like those in heaven who rejoice when a person turns from his sin and turns to Jesus for forgiveness of his sins.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The Bible says that all people are like sheep that are lost. Because of sin, we cannot know God without a Savior—and that Savior is Jesus. He is the only way we can come to God the Father. Jesus wants us to turn away from our sins and turn to Him and ask forgiveness of our sins. He promises to clean our hearts and make us new. And He promises eternal life with Him in heaven!

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to bring forgiveness of sin to us.
- Praise God for Jesus who is the good shepherd.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to turn away from our sin and turn to Jesus.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

JOHN 14:6

(To the tune of "Jesus Loves Me")

Jesus said to him, "I am
(Jesus loves me, this I know.)

The way, the tru-uth, and the life.
(For the Bible tells me so.)

No one comes to the Fa-a-ther
(Little ones, to Him belong.)

Except through Me."
(They are weak,)

John fourteen six.
(But He is strong.)

JESUS CAME

(To the tune of "This Old Man")

Jesus came. Praise His name!
(This old man, he played one,)

I will never be the same.
(He played knick-knack on his thumb.)

If I love and serve Him,
(With a knick-knack paddy-whack.)

Belie-ieve in His name!
(Give a dog a bone.)

I will never be the same!
(This old man came rolling home.)

TELL THE GOSPEL NEWS

(To the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Oh, tell the gospel news.
(The farmer in the dell,)

Oh, tell the gospel news.
(The farmer in the dell,)

Jesus . . . He is Alive!
(Hi-ho, the derry-o!)

Oh, tell the gospel news.
(The farmer in the dell.)

Christ gave His life for us.
He died upon the Cross,
So He could conquer sin and death,
And we can be with God!

We are free from sin.
We are free from death.
If we put our hope and trust—
Our hope and trust in Him!

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.