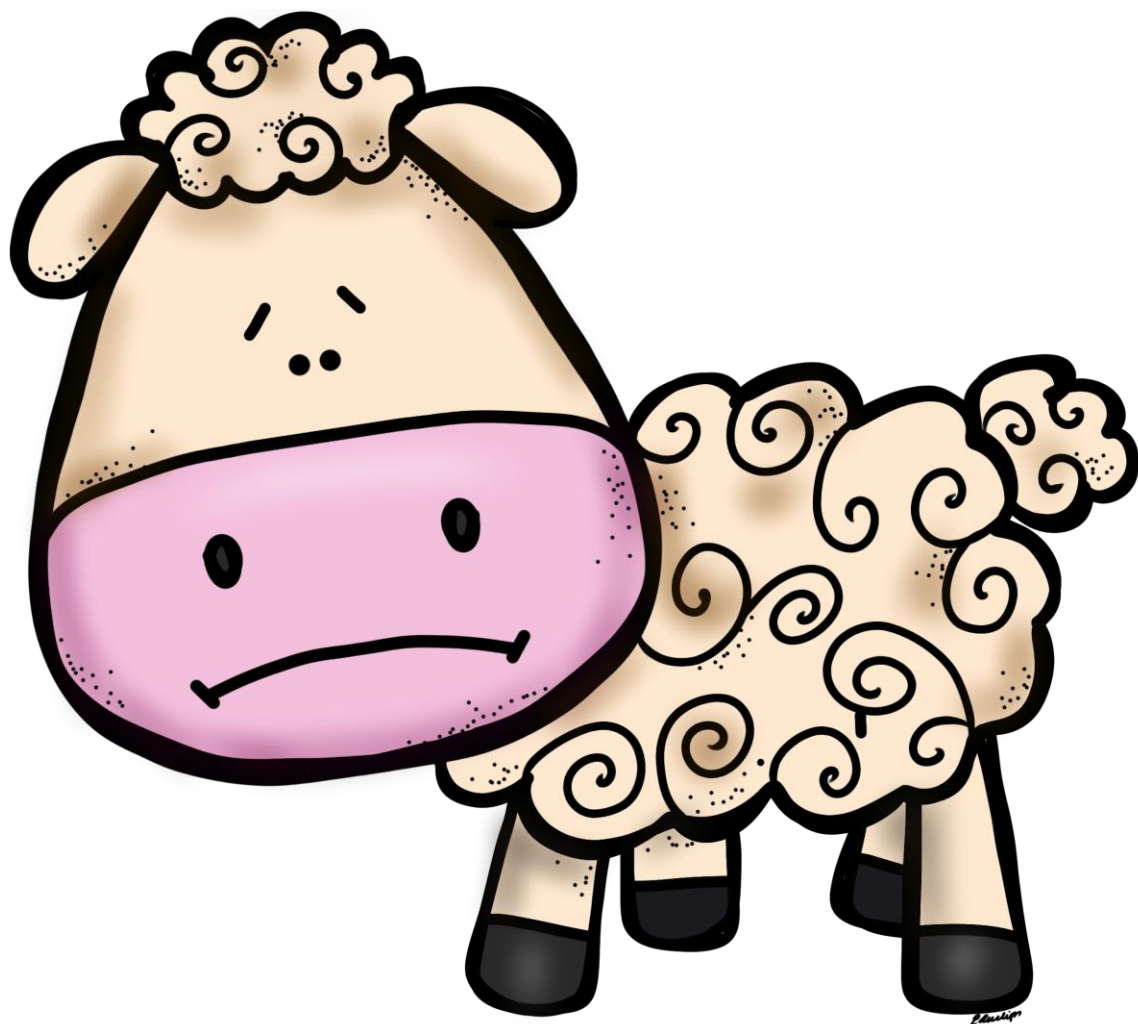
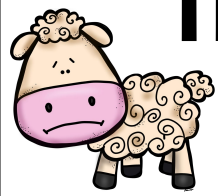


EXPLORING GOD'S WORD
**THE PARABLE OF
THE LOST SHEEP**
A BIBLE LESSON FOR KIDS



Poet Prints TEACHING



The Parable of the Lost Sheep

This packet was designed to be an easy way to teach foundational Bible stories to kids in first, second, and third grades. Each lesson in this series is structured the same and can be taught in about 40 minutes!

Step One: Read or watch the Bible story.

Gather your group together and read the Parable of the Lost Sheep from your children's Bible or preferred translation of the Bible. It can be found in Luke 15:3-7.

If you'd rather watch the story, many animated Bible stories are available for free on YouTube. Search "The Parable of the Lost Sheep Bible Story for Kids" in the YouTube search bar. Be sure to watch the video fully before showing it to your class to be sure it's appropriate.

Background Information:

A parable was a short story that Jesus used to teach people about God. These stories helped people to understand what Jesus was saying because He connected the stories to the people's everyday lives. Parables can also be easier to remember than long speeches.

This parable is the last of three short parables told in Luke 15. The other two are the Parable of the Lost Coin and the Parable of the Lost Sheep. All three of these stories teach the important lesson that God loves us, and we are important to Him. God celebrates when we choose to follow Him.

Jesus taught these stories in response to something the Pharisees said. The Pharisees were the religious leaders who were very concerned with following the rules. They were so worried about following the rules that they didn't have time to love or care for people. The Pharisees were upset that Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them! Jesus taught this parable in response.

In this parable, God is the Shepherd, and we are the sheep. The Shepherd rejoices more over the lost sheep being found than the 99 sheep who never strayed. This parable teaches us that God rejoices when a sinner returns to Him.

The Pharisees would have seen themselves as part of the 99 who didn't stray. It would have been shocking for them to hear that God rejoices more over sinners than over them. The Pharisees had a big problem with pride and thought they were better than others.

What is a sheep like?

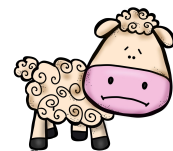
Sheep are not very smart animals. They are hard to train and do not learn quickly. They cannot see or hear very well. They are slow and have no way to protect themselves – no camouflage, claws, sharp teeth, or armor. Sheep quickly get confused and scared. They follow each other around and will walk off a cliff together. It is common for sheep to wander off and get lost. Sheep need a shepherd. We are like sheep, and we need Jesus. We often wander away from God and His teachings. This puts us in danger of Satan's attacks.

What was a Shepherd like?

A shepherd was tasked with caring for the sheep. Sheep knew their shepherd's voice and would follow. He would lead them to safe places to drink and eat. He would protect them from animals like bears, wolves, and lions. A shepherd often had to do dangerous things to protect his sheep. At night, he would put the sheep in a special pen and lay down to sleep at the gate to make sure no sheep escaped, and no dangerous animals could get in to hurt the sheep. Jesus is our Shepherd.

After you read the story, share some of the background information above with your kids to help them gain a deeper understanding of the story.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep



Step Two: Explore the story.

After reading or watching the story, use the retell the story worksheet to retell the main parts of today's story. This can be done individually or in small groups. Don't want to print it out? Try mapping out the story together on a piece of large paper or a whiteboard.

Parable of the Lost Sheep: Quickly map out the three main parts of the story.

- The Shepherd searches for the lost sheep.
- The Shepherd finds the lost sheep.
- The Shepherd invites others to celebrate with him.

Then, talk through the discussion questions as a group.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep	
1	
2	
3	

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	
QUESTION #1 What happened when the shepherd was counting his sheep?	QUESTION #2 What did he do when he realized a sheep was lost?
QUESTION #3 How did he respond when he found his sheep?	QUESTION #4 What does this story teach us about God?

Step Three: Do the activities and the craft.

Activity: Sheep Scoop Up

Before the lesson begins, find a bag of cotton balls, a serving spoon, a bowl/basket, a blindfold, and an empty table.

In this just-for-fun activity, your kids will be not-so-effective shepherds trying to herd their sheep (cotton balls). This activity is done one child at a time. Here's how to do it:

- Spread the bag of cotton balls onto the table and blindfold one child
- Give the blindfolded child the serving spoon and the basket. Tell them, "You are the shepherd. Your job is to scoop up and rescue as many sheep (cotton balls) as you can in the next 30 seconds and place them in your basket." Then, let them try! It will likely be difficult, and very few



Activity: Shepherd or Sheep?

Use the 'Sheep or Shepherd Cards' and work together to determine if each one is a characteristic of a sheep or a shepherd. Cut out the cards and sort them into two groups. When you are done, ask your kids, "How are we like the sheep in our Bible story? What makes Jesus like a shepherd?"

Craft: Draw a Sheep

Using the instructions on page 9, help your students to draw a sheep. I suggest drawing the sheep together, one step at a time. The sheep can be drawn on the student paper provided on pages 9 and 10 or on any paper that you have available.



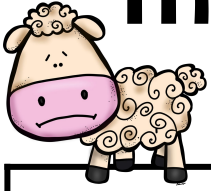
Step Four: Finish with the take-home worksheet.

The 'Parable of the Lost Sheep' coloring page is the perfect way to wrap up the lesson and create a take-home page that includes caregivers in what you have learned. Students will color a picture, write down their memory verse, and add the key takeaway (a "big idea") from the story.

Memory verse suggestion from the story:

Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.
Luke 15:6b NIV

Big idea suggestion: God cares for us like a shepherd cares for sheep. He is overjoyed when His lost sheep return.



The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Name: _____

1

2

3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

QUESTION #1

What happened when the shepherd was counting his sheep?

QUESTION #2

What did he do when he realized a sheep was lost?

QUESTION #3

How did he respond when he found his sheep?

QUESTION #4

What does this story teach us about God?

Sheep or Shepherd?

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

very hard to
train

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

fights off
dangerous
animals

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

lays down to
sleep in the pen
entrance at
night

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

bad
eyesight

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

gets easily
confused

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

builds a dam to
slow down
water, making it
easier to drink

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

use a
staff

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

can locate
good water

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

can't hear
very well

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

follow each
other around

SHEEP OR SHEPHERD?

cannot protect
themselves

can't camouflage, no
claws, no sharp teeth



How to Draw a Sheep

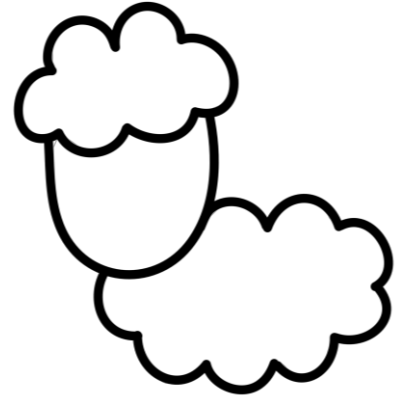
STEP ONE
DRAW A 'U' SHAPE



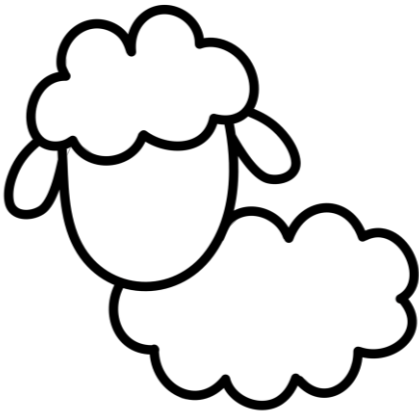
STEP TWO
ADD THE WOOL ON TOP



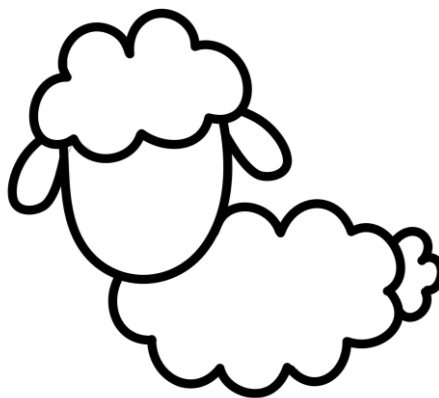
STEP THREE
ADD A FLUFFY BODY



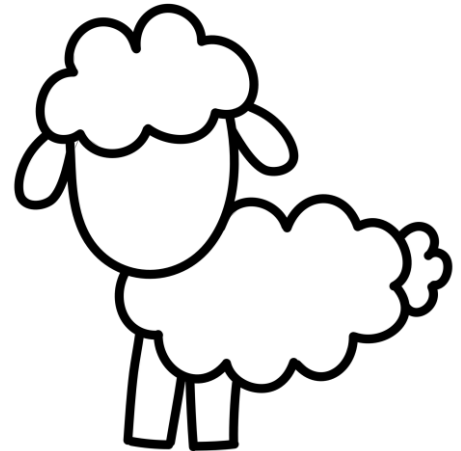
STEP FOUR
DRAW THE EARS



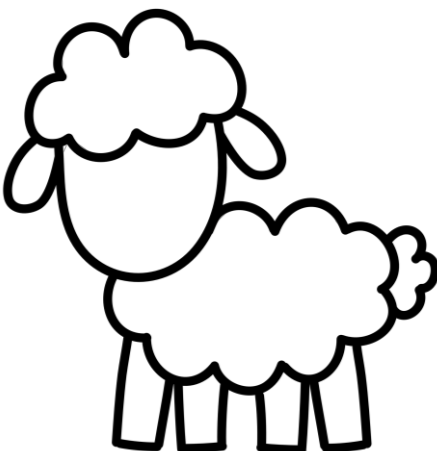
STEP FIVE
ADD A TAIL



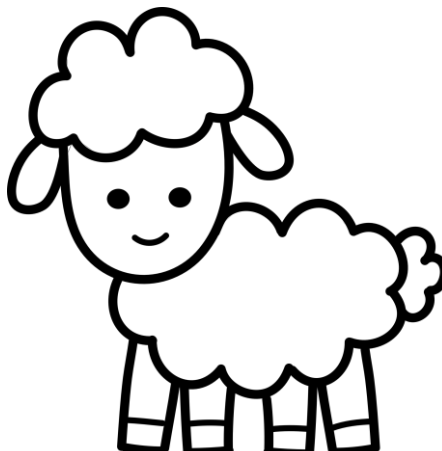
STEP SIX
DRAW THE FRONT TWO LEGS



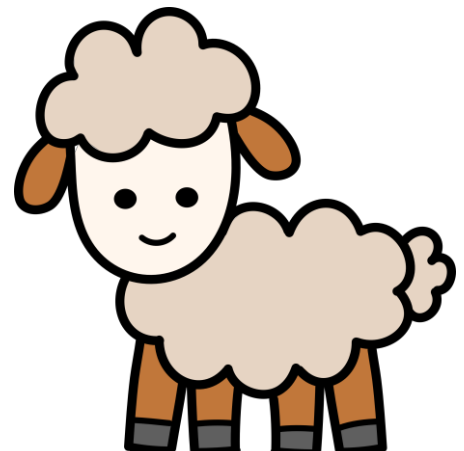
STEP SEVEN
ADD THE BACK LEGS



STEP EIGHT
ADD EYES, A MOUTH, HOOVES



ADD COLOR!



Rejoice with me
I HAVE FOUND MY LOST SHEEP.

Rejoice with me

FOR I HAVE FOUND MY SHEEP WHICH WAS LOST.

PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP



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MEMORIZE THIS:

THE BIG IDEA

What does this story teach us about God?

PARABLE OF THE LOST SHEEP



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He is overjoyed
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