



# THE LOST SHEEP



**Matthew 18:10-14; Luke 15:3-7**

Some people wondered who was most important to God. So Jesus told them a parable.

“Think about a shepherd. What does he do? He watches over his sheep. He gives them plenty of food, and he gives them plenty of water. He counts them up to make sure they are all there.

If one is lost, he looks for it. He looks in the barn. He looks near the stream. He looks in the hills. He looks everywhere. The shepherd does not give up. At last, he finds the little lost sheep!

He carries the sheep back. He calls his friends together and says, ‘Let’s celebrate! My lost sheep has been found!’”

Then Jesus said, “God loves every one of his children like a shepherd loves his sheep. When one of them sins, it is like a sheep that has gone astray, and God is very sad. But when the person turns away from sin and comes back to God, he is very, very happy. He celebrates like a shepherd who has found his lost sheep.”



# PRESCHOOL



## WELCOME

Prepare tables with the opening activities. Greet kids by name as kids arrive. Be sure to welcome any new families.

**TABLE #1** - Coloring sheet & crayons - - - **TABLE #2** - - - **Floor** - cars & trucks



## INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Have preschoolers tidy of the room and then gather in the story area. Lead preschoolers in a version of Duck, Duck, Goose. Have preschoolers sit in a circle. One child walks around saying, "Sheep, sheep, sheep..." When they say "Shepherd!", the chosen preschooler gets up and follows them around the circle. If the 'chooser' makes it back to the open spot in the circle, they sit down. Repeat again until ready to start the story.

**Today's story is one Jesus told to help people understand how important they are to God. Let's listen carefully and hear what Jesus said.**



## THE LOST SHEEP

Read the story from The Beginner's Bible starting on page 397; or play the video on the TV from the thumb drive.

**I am made in God's image.**

**God made me.**

**God loves me.**

**I am important to God.**



## SONG

Lead preschoolers in singing one or more songs found in the October 2026 file.



## PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Practice the key verse with preschoolers.

**I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.**

**What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well.**

**Psalms 139:14**



# ACTIVITIES

## COUNTING SHEEP

- Hide a sheep from the basket, taking note of the total number of sheep.
- Place the basket with sheep where preschoolers are able count them together.
- Select one sheep and say, **"Is a sheep missing?"**
- Let preschoolers know how many sheep there should be in the basket. Count the sheep again. **Can you help me find the missing sheep and put it back with the others?**
- **The shepherd noticed when even one sheep was missing. Jesus cares about each one of us. We are important to Him.**

**I am made in God's image.**

**God made me.**

**God loves me.**

**I am important to God.**

**I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way.**

**What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well.**

**Psalm 139:14**

## FOLLOW THE SHEPHERD

- This activity can be played outside or inside.
- Choose a preschooler to be the shepherd. The preschoolers are sheep. Have the "shepherd" lead the sheep around the room. Encourage them to walk in different patterns or stop and balance on one foot.
- **Sheep follow their shepherd. We can listen to Jesus and follow Him.**



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Match parent pick-up numbers, with child name tag numbers.

Build relationships with parents, encourage them to take a picture of the parent recap page to go over on the ride home.