



# The Lost Sheep

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus will search for the lost and find them.

## THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Teaches

## THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 15:4-7

What He has done: Jesus taught that God finds those who are lost.

## THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Search for the lost."

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
 For God is the King of all the earth." Psalm 47:6-7a

Unit 5: The King Who Teaches—Parables 1			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
23	The Lost Sheep, Luke 15:4-7	Jesus taught that God finds those who are lost.	To know Jesus will search for the lost and find them.
24	The Growing Seed, Mark 4:26-29	Jesus taught that God made the plants grow.	To know God makes us grow.
25	The Wise Builder, Matthew 7:24-27	Jesus taught that the wise man builds his house on a rock.	To make wise choices based on God's Word.
26	The Good Shepherd, John 10:14-16	Jesus taught that He is the Good Shepherd.	To know we belong to Jesus.
27	The Lost Coin, Luke 15:8-10	Jesus taught that the woman rejoiced when she found her lost coin.	To know heaven rejoices over each of us.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Hebrews 4:16. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the way You draw us to You and teach us. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might teach the children. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a sheep
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Search for the lost."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Sing Praises" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "He Is Mighty to Save" "How Wide" "I Am with You" "It's Praise Time" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "We Love" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Amazing Grace" "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Cedarment Toddler Bible Songs The Ultimate Bible Song Collection for Kids Vol. 1
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 23
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 15:4-7	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 15:5-6a Visual: Lost and Found Sheep craft sample
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Lost and Found Sheep	Sturdy white paper (or felt), large craft stick, cotton balls, glue or tape, crayons or markers, optional: pink pompom or button
		Game: Search for the Sheep	Ten sheep (For example: ten pictures, Lost and Found Sheep crafts, toys, or large cotton balls)
		Game: The Shepherd Will Find You	Blanket or large sheet
		Snack: Sheep Cookies	Sugar cookies decorated with white icing in the shape of a sheep's face, raisins or chocolate chips for eyes
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 5, Lesson 23 Color This Story: "The Lost Sheep"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 15:4-7	None
	Up to 10	Game: Praise Dance	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Sing Praises," CD player
	Up to 10	Game: Circle Praise	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about sheep and shepherds

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



## Search for the lost

# THE WELCOME

**Teacher Tip:** For lessons 23-32, use stickers in the Treasure Chest for children to add to their Kingdom Stories Treasure Box. See the craft page for further instructions.

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a sheep. **Good shepherds search for lost sheep. Let this help you remember Jesus searches for the lost, too. Today's Whisper Verse is "Search for the lost."** Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.\***

**SIGN LANGUAGE: "Search for the lost."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

**Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:**

- "Search (for)"** Cup the right hand to create the letter "C" hand shape. Make circular motions with the "C" hand shape around the face while moving hand across the face from right to left.
- "(the) lost."** Using the right hand, make a closed fist with the middle and pointer finger up to create the letter "V" hand shape. Move the letter "V" hand shape down diagonally across the body starting at the right shoulder and ending with the "V" hand shape striking the flat palm of the left hand.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!  
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

**\*Today's Whisper Verse:** "Search for the lost," Ezekiel 34:16. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



Jesus as the King who teaches

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.

**It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to King Jesus who teaches us all about His kingdom. Do you like to hear stories? (Children respond.) I do, too! Did you know Jesus was the best storyteller of all? His stories are the best stories of all because they help us understand the kingdom of God. Today, we will hear the story Jesus told about the lost sheep. We know a good shepherd will always search for his lost sheep. That reminds me of our Whisper Verse. Let's try it together.** Review Whisper Verse: "Search for the lost." Include sign language.



**Just as the shepherd finds his lost sheep, Jesus always finds us when we are lost. He promises to watch over us wherever we go. Sing: "I Am with You" and "He Is Mighty to Save." Jesus is watching over us right now. Let's thank Him by giving our money offering to the church. Play: "Amazing Grace" as background music while collecting the offering.**



**I heard we have a new friend here today. He likes stories, too. Let's see who he might be!** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 23.



**Wasn't it great to hear there is a celebration in heaven whenever someone chooses to follow Jesus? When we choose to follow Jesus, we are just like the lost sheep who was found. Let's sing our new Bible Memory Verse Song and praise King Jesus for His goodness in helping us choose to follow Him. Sing: "Sing Praises."**



## The lost sheep **THE WORD**

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **Classroom Promise with the motions.**

**With my eyes on my teacher;**

Point to eyes.

**My mouth quiet as can be,**

Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.

**I will listen to hear,**

Cup hand around ear.

**How God loves you and me.**

Hug self, point to others and then self.

**Last time, we heard how Jesus was taken up to heaven. Today, we will hear a story Jesus once told about a lost sheep.** Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 15:5-6a.

### **WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 15:4-7**

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, hold a "Lost and Found Sheep" craft sample. Other visual options include Color This Story or any related picture.

- **Jesus told of one lost sheep,**
- **That far away did roam.**
- **The shepherd left his flock to seek,**
- **And bring his lost sheep home.**
  
- **When his lost sheep was found,**
- **The shepherd called his friends.**
- **He gathered everyone around,**
- **To celebrate there and then!**

**What will the shepherd do if he loses a sheep?** (Search for the lost.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Search for the lost."** Include sign language or hand motions.



**What does the shepherd do when he finds his lost sheep?** (He takes it home and celebrates.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Luke 15:5-6a from teacher's Bible.



Jesus finds the lost

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

**Teacher Tip:** Encourage families to use the instructions on the Ponder, Pray & Play card to make a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box to store children's Kingdom Stories Treasures for the next ten weeks (Lessons 23-32). Children should place their Treasure Chest Sticker on the outside of the box and their parable story crafts inside. Create a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box for the classroom to review the stories each week.

### **CRAFT: LOST AND FOUND SHEEP**

**Purpose:** To remind children of the story of the lost sheep.

**Supplies:** Sturdy white paper (or felt), large craft stick, cotton balls, glue or tape, crayons or markers, optional: pink pompom or button for the nose

**Prepare:** Cut a 3-inch oval for the front of the sheep and a 1½-inch circle for the back of the sheep.

#### **Directions for children:**

1. Draw eyes and a nose on the oval as the sheep's face. Optional: Glue on a pink pompom or a button for the nose.
2. Glue a cotton ball to the back of the sheep for a tail.
3. Glue front and back of the sheep to opposite sides of a craft stick.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **What will a good shepherd do if he loses one of his sheep?** (Search for the lost.)
- **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.
- **The shepherd does not want to lose any of his sheep. He will leave the other sheep safe in their pen to search for the lost one.**
- **Pretend you are the shepherd. Search for your lost sheep.** Children shield their eyes with their hands and look around the room.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: SEARCH FOR THE SHEEP**

**Purpose:** Children will search for lost sheep and celebrate like the shepherd did.

**Supplies:** Ten sheep (For example: ten pictures, Lost and Found Sheep crafts, toys, or large cotton balls)

**Prepare:** Hide one of the sheep where children can find it later.

**Teacher Tip:** This game can also be played by choosing one child to be the shepherd for each round of play.

### **Directions:**

1. Display 9 sheep.
2. **Pretend you are shepherds. Here are your ten sheep. Can you count the sheep with me?**  
Children repeat each number after you.
3. **Oh, no! We are missing a sheep. Quick, see if you can find the missing sheep!**
4. Children search for the missing sheep. When it is found, place it with the other sheep.
5. **You found the lost sheep! Let's celebrate.**
6. Children cheer.
7. Play again, as time allows.

## **GAME: THE SHEPHERD WILL FIND YOU**

**Purpose:** To help children understand Jesus will find them.

**Supplies:** Blanket or large sheet

**In the same way, a shepherd searches for his lost sheep, Jesus always searches for and finds the lost. What does a sheep say? (Baa.) Let's pretend we are sheep with their shepherd.**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose one child to be the shepherd.
2. Remaining children crawl on the floor as sheep making sheep noises.
3. Hold up blanket or large sheet to hide one sheep (child).
4. Ask: "Child's name is lost! Who will find child's name?"
5. Remaining sheep say, "**The shepherd will find child's name.**"
6. The shepherd moves the blanket or large sheet to reveal the lost sheep.
7. Play again until each child has a turn as the lost sheep or the shepherd.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: SHEEP COOKIES**

**Purpose:** Children will enjoy cookies that remind them of the story of the Lost Sheep.

**Snack Suggestion:** Decorate sugar cookies with white icing in the shape of a sheep's face. Use raisins or chocolate chips for the eyes.

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.**  
**Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **What will the shepherd do if he loses his sheep?** (Search for the lost.)
  - **That's our Whisper Verse!** Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "Search for the lost."
  - **The sheep was lost. Do you think the lost sheep was afraid?** (Yes.)
  - **How do you think the lost sheep felt when it was found?** (Children respond.)
  - **Do you think the shepherd was happy when he found his lost sheep?** (Yes.)



## **CIRCLE OF PRAYER**

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**COMPLETED CRAFT:** Take home your "Lost and Found Sheep" craft. Tell someone the shepherd always searches for his lost sheep. At home, create a Kingdom Stories Treasure Box for your Lost and Found Sheep. Remember to put your sheep sticker on the outside of your Treasure Box.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how the shepherd finds his lost sheep.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "The Lost Sheep." Discuss Bible Story and play Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Sing Praises" as children color.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SAY & DO: LUKE 15:4-7**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the Bible Story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Jesus told of one lost sheep,** (Raise index finger.)
- **That far away did roam.** (Walk in place.)
- **The shepherd left his flock to seek,** (Hand on forehead in searching pose.)
- **And bring his lost sheep home.** (Pretend to carry sheep in arms.)
  
- **When his lost sheep was found,** (Point to eyes.)
- **The shepherd called his friends.** (Cup hands around mouth as if to shout.)
- **He gathered everyone around,** (Beckoning motion.)
- **To celebrate there and then!** (Clap three times.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

“Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is the King of all the earth.” Psalm 47:6-7a

### **GAME: PRAISE DANCE**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song “Sing Praises,” CD player

**Jesus loves to hear you sing praises to Him. Praises are words that say how great Jesus is. Let's praise Him together as we dance and sing our Bible Memory Verse Song!**

**Directions:**

1. Sing or play recording of “Sing Praises.”
2. Encourage children to sing, dance, and create motions to help remember the words to the song.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: CIRCLE PRAISE**

**Purpose:** Children stand to praise God for something in their life. Some praise examples include: family, friends, pets, toys, teachers, favorite activities, etc.

**Supplies:** None

**We can praise God by thanking Him for the things we love. He gives us so many good things. Think of one thing you love that God has given to you. Let's praise and thank God for all of those good things!**

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Choose one child to stand in the center.
3. Seated children chant: "Name of standing child sings praises to our King!"  
"Name of standing child, what is the praise you bring?"
4. Standing child says, "**I praise God for child's individual praise.**"
5. All the children clap and shout "**We praise God!**"
6. Child in the center chooses another child to stand and takes that child's place in the circle.
7. Play until each child has had a turn giving praise.

**Option:** Each time children say the word "sings" or "praises," use the following hand motions:

**"Sings"** Hands move back and forth in rhythm as if conducting music for a choir.

**"Praises"** Index finger points from mouth outward (sign language for "truth"), then clap hands twice.



## **STORY TIME**

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about sheep and shepherds.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 5, Lesson 23: The Lost Sheep

**PONDER!** Read Luke 15:4-7 with your family. Show your family your Lost and Found Sheep craft. Tell them how the shepherd searches for his lost sheep. The shepherd is happy when he finds his sheep. In the same way, Jesus is very happy when He finds and saves someone who was lost.

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for finding us when we are lost. Thank You for being such a good shepherd to us. Amen."

**PLAY!** Find and decorate a box to be your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box. Put today's craft inside your Treasure Box. Put your Kingdom Stories Treasure Box Sticker on the outside of your Treasure Box. During the week, take out your craft treasures to remind your family of Jesus' stories.

**Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse:** Psalm 47:6-7a

"Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth."