



The Lost Sheep

Lesson Aim: To recognize we wander like sheep
and Jesus is our Shepherd.

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 find those who are lost.

Key Verse: Luke 15:6b

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Psalm 23

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

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 recognize we wander like sheep and Jesus is our Shepherd.
24	The Sower, Luke 8:4-8, 11-15	Jesus taught about four different responses to God's Word.	To understand why some believe God's Word and some do not.
25	The Vine and the Branches, John 15:1-8	Jesus taught He is the Vine and we are the branches.	To understand what it means to remain in Jesus and bear fruit.
26	The Workers in the Vineyard, Matthew 20:1-16	Jesus taught about a fair and generous landowner.	To know God is fair and generous.
27	The Great Banquet, Luke 14:15-24	Jesus taught about guests invited to a banquet.	To see that we need to respond to Jesus' invitation.

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."

TREASURE TREAT

The Treasure Treat for Units 5 and 6 is a Kingdom Parable Journal. Each week, children receive Kingdom Parable Stickers to add to their journal. The journal and stickers are available at ResourceWell.org. You may print the stickers on sticker paper or on sturdy paper and attach with glue.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Search for the Sheep	One sheep (toy, large cotton ball, or picture)
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "The Lord Is My Shepherd" "The Fruit of the Spirit" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Amazing Grace" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Absolute All Time Favorites For Kids Cedarmont Worship for Kids: Volume 2
		Worship Scripture Reading: Genesis 28:15	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 23 Critter Kingdom script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Luke 15:4-7	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Psalm 23	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Kingdom Parable Journals, The Lost Sheep Kingdom Parable Stickers, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love The Lord," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Lost Sheep Snack	Cupcakes, white icing, marshmallows or flaked coconut, plastic knives
	Up to 10	Game: What Can Happen?	"What Can Happen?" Cards available at ResourceWell.org
	Up to 10	Craft: Parable Wind Chimes—The Lost Sheep	Sturdy paper plate, ribbon, large bead, slotted wooden clothespin, black pipe cleaners, cotton balls, glue, tape, markers, scissors, hole punch
	Up to 5	Bonus Parable: The Good Gifts	Bible open to Luke 11:5-10, The Good Gifts Kingdom Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Getting to Know You	None
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Color Decode	Colored paper, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, marker, scissors
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: The Wave	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	Kingdom Parable Review	Parable titles printed on footprint-shaped paper

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is the most valuable thing you have lost?

GAME: SEARCH FOR THE SHEEP

Purpose: To find the lost sheep just as Jesus finds us when we are lost.

Supplies: One sheep (toy, large cotton ball, or picture)

Optional: Place a robe and a shepherd's crook in the center of the circle for the child searching for the lost sheep to wear as a costume.

Jesus told parables. What is a parable? (A story that teaches a lesson.) **Jesus told people many parables to teach them about God's kingdom. In our Bible story, we will hear Jesus' parable about a shepherd who searched for his lost sheep. Let's play a game where we search for a lost sheep.**

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Choose one child to hide the sheep while the other children cover their eyes.
3. When the sheep is hidden, the child touches the head of one of the children in the circle and says, **"You are the shepherd! Your sheep is lost!"**
4. The children open their eyes and cheer, **"Find the sheep!"** while the shepherd jumps up to search for the lost sheep.
5. The child who hid the sheep may give clues to the shepherd by saying "warmer" when the shepherd is closer to the sheep and "colder" when further away.
6. After the shepherd finds the sheep, repeat steps 2 through 6 to play again.



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 music as children move to the designated area.



Jesus is the King who teaches. As our Teacher, Jesus told stories called parables to teach us about His kingdom. Today, we will hear the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Just as the shepherd watches over and rescues any lost sheep, Jesus is our Shepherd who watches over us. Read Genesis 28:15.



Let's thank Jesus by giving our money offering to the church. Play: "Amazing Grace" or "The Lord Is My Shepherd" as background music while collecting the offering.

Jesus is called the Good Shepherd. We also call Him our Teacher, Savior, and King. A Hebrew name for the Lord is Yahweh. In our Bible Memory Verse Song, we celebrate that we can go to Yahweh everyday! Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on Jesus as our Shepherd.



Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 23.



The lost sheep

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we learned the disciples watched as Jesus was taken up into heaven. While He lived on earth, Jesus taught His disciples many things about His kingdom. He taught them by the things He said and did. Jesus also taught through parables. Parables are stories that help us understand the kingdom of God. Today, we will hear the Parable of the Lost Sheep.



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 15:4-7. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Luke 15:6b.**

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

As I read, imagine Jesus Himself telling us this story. Read Luke 15:4-7.



We wander away from Jesus

THE WAY

Why do sheep wander? (They nibble at grass further and further away from their shepherd until soon, they are lost.) **Grass far away is the same as grass near the shepherd's feet. How is nibbling on grass far away unwise for a sheep?** (The sheep may wander into danger or become lost.) **The sheep can stay close to the shepherd and still eat.**

In this story, the lost sheep stands for a sinner—someone who has done wrong in God's eyes. Who does the shepherd stand for? (Jesus.) **Why do we wander away from Jesus?** (Sometimes we focus so much on other things that our hearts wander away from Jesus and we forget to stay close with Him.) **If you wander away from Jesus, how can you call out to Him?** (Pray.) **How can our hearts stay close with Jesus?** (Think about Him; pray and read the Bible; as we make choices, think about what He wants us to do.) **Why is it unwise to do our daily activities without remembering to stay close with Jesus?** (We forget to do what Jesus would do. We may be tempted to sin—to do things that are wrong in God's eyes.) **How might remembering Jesus is with you help you make choices that are right in God's eyes?** (Children respond.)

If time allows, play the WHAT CAN HAPPEN game located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

What does the shepherd do when he finds his one lost sheep? (He joyfully puts it on his shoulders, brings it home, and invites his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him.) **To repent is to turn back to God and do things His way. What did Jesus say happens in heaven when one sinner repents?** (There is rejoicing, which is celebrating.)

A shepherd knows when one of his sheep is missing or in danger. He never gives up until he finds his lost sheep. Is the shepherd angry with the sheep for wandering away? (No.) **Do you think Jesus is angry with us when we wander from Him?** (No.) **How is Jesus like a shepherd to us?** (He watches over His followers, He knows when we are far from Him or in trouble with sin, He brings us back to Him when our hearts wander from Him.)



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Hundreds of years before Jesus told the Parable of the Lost Sheep, David wrote about the Lord as our Shepherd. When King David was young, he was a shepherd. He understood how the Lord is like a shepherd to us. When we wander, Jesus searches for us. As our Shepherd, He brings us back to be close with Him. Close your eyes and listen to the words David wrote. Notice all the ways the Lord leads us, protects us, and cares for us—just like a shepherd.



FIND IT FIRST > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 23. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Psalm 23.

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a Kingdom Parable Journal and the Lost Sheep Kingdom Parable Sticker. You will also receive a bonus sticker for the Parable of the Good Gifts (see Bonus Parable in GOT TIME?). You can discover more about this parable in this week's Daily Way (W³ for older students). Keep your Kingdom Parable Journal at home and collect all twenty Kingdom Parable Stickers by joining us here each time.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 23 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of a shepherd finding his lost sheep. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: LOST SHEEP SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

Snack Suggestion: Cupcakes, white icing, marshmallows or flaked coconut, plastic knives

Alternative: Marshmallows, coconut cookies, or another white or fluffy snack

Jesus told a parable about a shepherd who lost a sheep. What did the shepherd do when he brought the lost sheep home? (Called his friends and rejoiced.) **Let's decorate cupcakes to look like sheep and celebrate that God always finds those who are lost.**

Directions:

1. Children decorate cupcakes with frosting and marshmallows to look like sheep.
2. Serve drinks.
3. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is the best celebration you have ever had?"**

GAME: WHAT CAN HAPPEN?

Purpose: To brainstorm some of the temptations we can avoid when we stay close with Jesus.

Supplies: What Can Happen? Cards provided at Resourcewell.org

Teacher Tip: Emphasize that it is not the activity that causes sin. When we do an activity without our hearts and minds close with Jesus, we may be tempted and led to sin.

Directions:

1. Show front of card #1: "What can happen?... When I'm with my friends?... Without Jesus?"
Discuss temptations that may occur while playing with friends when we are not close with Jesus. (Talk badly about others, brag, get into trouble, make bad choices, etc.)
2. Show the inside of the card: "What can happen?... When I'm with my friends?... With Jesus?"
Discuss wise choices that can occur while playing with friends when staying close with Jesus. (Be kind, make good choices, have more fun, etc.)
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 with the other cards:
Card #2 "When I'm trying to win a game?"
Card #3 "When I'm at school?"
Card #4 "When I'm given a chore?"
Card #5 "When I'm with my family?"
4. Continue to discuss temptations that may happen without Jesus and wise choices that may be made when staying close with Him.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PARABLE WIND CHIMES–THE LOST SHEEP

Purpose: Create a wind chime strand to remember the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

Supplies: Sturdy paper plate, ribbon, large bead, slotted wooden clothespin, black pipe cleaners, cotton balls, glue, tape, markers, scissors, hole punch

Prepare: Cut a 20-inch and a 30-inch ribbon. Punch three holes in each paper plate: two holes in the center, about two inches apart, and one hole about one inch from any edge. Cut a pipe cleaner in half.

Optional: Before attaching any of the ribbons, decorate the paper plate wind chime base. Knot ribbon above plate around a large bead. Use white beads and ribbon to match sheep. Substitute beads with any materials available: buttons, shells, stones, small metal objects, etc.

Teacher Tip: Parable Wind Chimes will be completed in Lessons 23-32 as the parables of Jesus are taught. Each session, a new strand representing the parable will be added to the paper plate base of the wind chimes. To maintain balance in the wind chimes as they are being created, punch holes directly opposite from each other when adding a new strand. Be sure to have extra paper plates and 30-inch ribbon hangers available for new children who will be joining in future weeks.

Jesus told stories to teach about God's kingdom. What do we call those stories? (Parables.)
Over the next ten lessons, we will learn many of the parables Jesus taught. Each week, we will add a new strand to our Parable Wind Chimes to remind us of the parable we learned. Let's begin by making our wind chime base and a strand for the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

Directions:

1. Thread the 30-inch ribbon through the two holes in the center of the plate. Hang plate upside down and tie a knot on the bottom of the plate to create a hanger.
2. Thread the 20-inch ribbon through the hole on the edge of the plate and tie a knot large enough to prevent the ribbon from pulling back through the plate.
3. Tie a bead to the bottom of the 20-inch ribbon.
4. Draw a sheep's face on the round end of the clothespin.
5. Bend the two half pipe cleaner sections in half and slide between the two prongs of the clothespin to create four sheep legs. Secure with tape.
6. Attach the sheep to the 20-inch ribbon with tape or by tying it to the ribbon.
7. Glue cotton balls onto the clothespin to create a fuzzy sheep body.

BONUS PARABLE: THE GOOD GIFTS

Purpose: To introduce and discuss another parable Jesus taught His followers.

Supplies: Bible open to Luke 11:5-10, The Good Gifts Kingdom Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)

Today's bonus parable is the story of the good gifts. Volunteer reads Luke 11:5-10. **Why did the man go to the trouble of getting out of bed late at night to give bread to his friend?** (Because the friend knocked and asked so boldly.)

Jesus wants us to pray to God boldly, asking for what we need. What did Jesus say will happen when we ask, seek, and knock? (The Bible says: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.") **To ask is to pray to God for whatever you need. To seek is to search for what God is doing and look for the ways He may be answering your prayers. To knock is to boldly pray and ask God to give you what you need. When you pray, remember to A.S.K. (Ask, Seek, Knock!)**

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

DISCUSSION: GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Purpose: Children get to "love their neighbors" by learning about their favorite things.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Gather in a circle and assign each child a partner seated next to him or her.
2. Partners quietly share a few of their favorite things to do.
3. Each partner introduces his or her partner to the class and tells everyone the partner's favorite things to do.

GAME: COLOR DECODE

Purpose: Children unscramble and learn the words to the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Colored paper, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, marker, scissors

Prepare: For every four children, cut a sheet of colored paper into four equal-size cards. On each of the cards write one of these phrases from the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart"/ "and with all your soul"/ "and with all your mind."/ "Love your neighbor as yourself." Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Say the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Mix the sets together. Note: If children do not divide evenly into groups of four, give one or more children two cards of the same color.
3. Give each child a random card.
4. On your signal, the children are to search for the other three children with matching color cards.
5. Once together, the children put their cards in the correct order of the Bible Memory Verse and sit down. (They can use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.)
6. **How should we love God?** (With all our heart, soul, and mind.) **How should we love our neighbors?** (As ourselves.) **Jesus told parables to teach us how to live together in God's kingdom. The parables teach us how to love God and each other.**
7. Play again, as time allows.

GAME: THE WAVE

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

Supplies: Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Poster or Bible

Directions:

1. Assign one phrase from Matthew 22:37, 39 to each child or group.
2. As helper directs, each child/group quickly stands, says assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to thighs and sits down.
3. Repeat three times, faster each time.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



KINGDOM PARABLE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus. Lessons 23-32 explore the parables Jesus told to teach us about His kingdom. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

Jesus Teaches about the Lost Sheep: Throughout Jesus' ministry on earth, He used parables to teach people about His kingdom. In the Parable of The Lost Sheep, what does the shepherd do when one of his sheep is lost? (He leaves the 99 sheep to find the lost sheep. He celebrates when he finds it.) **How is the shepherd's celebration like the celebration in heaven?** (Heaven celebrates when one sinner turns to God.)

How to create a display for reviewing the Kingdom Parables:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the footprints.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the display using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan