



## Family Worship Guide 16 LOST SHEEP

### What is a Parable?

Good question! A parable is a story about something the people hearing it would know about. But, there's a meaning to the story. The parable helps the people hearing it understand something about God and His kingdom.

### The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Older children will be able to read the scripture, Luke 15:3-7, and understand completely the parable that Jesus is telling. This passage in the Bible is very easy to read.

Watch a video that tells "The Parable of the Lost Sheep." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXLt3Jjdmgl>

- So, what do you think the parable about the lost sheep is trying to tell you?
- What can we learn about God from this parable (story)?

### Talk Time

#### God's love is ... Individual.

What do you think "individual" means? That means it's for each person. The shepherd knew every sheep and noticed which one was missing. That one sheep was important. God speaks His message to each person, one by one.

God loves each person individually, and He designs a plan for each person. The God who created everything—what's on the moon and what's on the other side of the world, what's under the sea and that bug that's riding on your dog's ear—that great big God loves YOU!

**God's love ... Never says, "That's good enough!"** When have you said, "Awww, that's good enough"? God won't be satisfied unless every single one of us is following Him. You might think that is one dumb sheep, getting lost like that. He deserved to be lost and stay lost, because he wasn't following the shepherd. But, God doesn't give up on anyone. He never says, "That's good enough."

God is just going to keep on loving you. He will keep on trying to get you to come to Him and He'll do anything it takes. It was so important to Him that He even sent His only Son to take the punishment for your sins and my sins. God doesn't wait for you to love Him first. He started loving you before you were even born and He will never stop.

#### God's love ... Celebrates!

When God created each person, He designed you to love Him and live with Him. But each person disobeys God; you sin. When you come back to God and love Him because you want to, God celebrates! He celebrates because you're found. That brings Him more joy than anything. He even commands all of heaven to celebrate along with Him.

## Game Time

If you have little ones, play Hide and Seek. You will hide and your child will try to find you. Draw them in your direction by letting out an occasional “baaa.”

You kept looking for me, and, in the parable, the shepherd kept looking for the lost sheep until he found him.

- How did the shepherd feel when he found his lost sheep?
- How do you think God feels when we start following and obeying Him?

## Test Your Drawing Skills

If you have older kids, follow along with this YouTube video to learn how to draw a sheep. “How to Draw a Sheep, Step by Step”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ck8cu4FP60>

When you started with the blank paper, it was like the sheep was lost. By drawing him, you were able to find him!

Please post your finished sheep ... that has been found ... to the Shorewood Church of God Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/224923212204867/?ref=bookmarks>

## Time to Pray Together

*Dear God. When I wander away from living Your way, thank You for helping me find my way back. Help me to remember that You are the One who knows what's best for me. I want to follow You. Amen.*

## Who's Missing?

Place 20 small objects on a cookie sheet. (The entire family can be in on gathering them from around the house.) Cover the cookie sheet with a dish towel. Let everyone in the family look at the full tray for about 20 seconds and then return the cover. One person takes the cookie sheet into a different room and removes one object. Leave the object in that room. Cover the objects once more and return to the room where the family is. Unveil the objects and everyone tries to figure out which object is now missing. If you think you know, say, “Baaa!” Once it's been figured out, return the missing object to the cookie sheet, and choose someone else to remove an object ... do the same thing over and over, as long as you like.

- God knows exactly who is missing. He knows who is not following Him. But, He will keep providing you with opportunities to come back to Him.
- What does it mean to follow God?
- What does it mean to be lost?

