



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle C - XXIV Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 32, 7-11. 13-14; Psalm 50; 1 Timothy 1, 12-17; Luke 15, 1-32

Parable of the Lost Sheep

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So, to them he addressed this parable. "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance. "Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.' In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Reflection

The Gospel says that the Pharisees and tax collectors approached Jesus to listen. What is a Pharisee? (Leaders of the Jewish faith who were more interested in money and power than in God's will.) **Why are tax collectors compared to sinners?** (They collected money for the emperor; they often collected more and kept the extra.) **Why do the Pharisees object to Jesus talking to the tax collectors and sinners?** (They find their actions wrong and so they don't understand why Jesus doesn't reject them too.) **Jesus knows what they are thinking and explains with a parable: a story with a moral. Jesus talks about a shepherd and his sheep because during that time many were shepherds and could identify with the message. What happened to the shepherd?** (He lost a sheep.) **How did he feel?** (Worried and sad.) **What did he do?** (He left the rest of the flock and went out to find it.) **What did he do when he found it?** (Full of joy, he carried it over his shoulders and went home to celebrate with family and friends.) **Who does the pastor represent?** (God) **Who does the lost sheep represent?** (Us when we disobey God and separate ourselves from Him.) **What is the message of the parable?** (God loves us very much and when we separate ourselves because of sin, He is saddened and seeks us until He finds us again. All in Heaven celebrate joyfully when a sinner repents and returns to God.) **We can help Jesus by sacrificing and praying for the conversion of sinners.**



Activity

On the following page, help the shepherd find the lost sheep. On the other page, color, cut, and glue cotton onto the sheep. Glue the sheep to a stick and dance to the song below.

Prayer

Jesus, thank you for loving me so much. Thank you for seeking me when I leave you. Help me to seek you always and stay by your side. Help me to forgive those who hurt me as you forgive me. Amen.

Song: The Lost Sheep, Two by 2, (Ctrl Click) <https://youtu.be/iTEhrNeI6Rg> (3-7 years)

Hey! Jesus Loves Me, Ill Fight; (Ctrl Click) <https://youtu.be/oliRIM6iw3c> (8+ years)

PPT: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1c9qvV09f2uxgegrDQ5aIYM2WZ39-7IPB/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true>



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Florida Center for Peace

Help the shepherd find his lost sheep.



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45 SW 71 Ave. – Miami, FL 33144 – Tel: (305) 412-1700 – E-mail: info@fcpeace.com

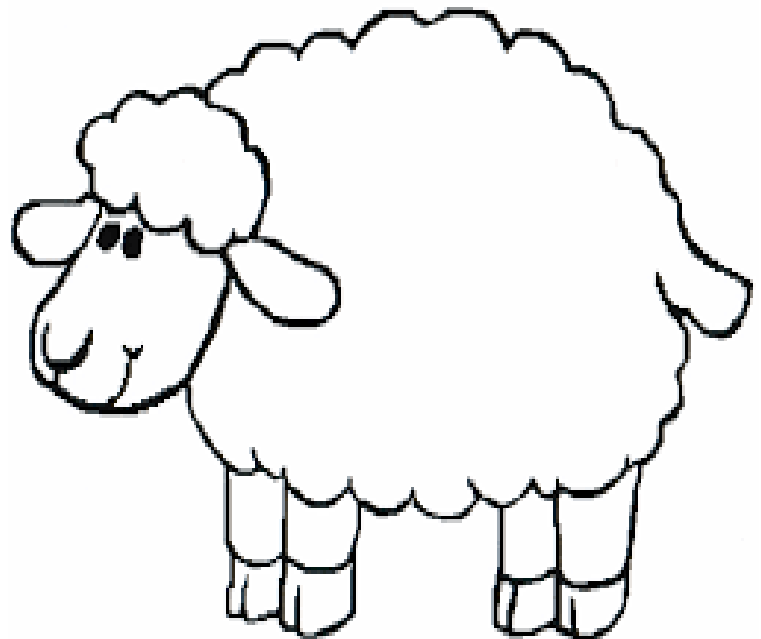
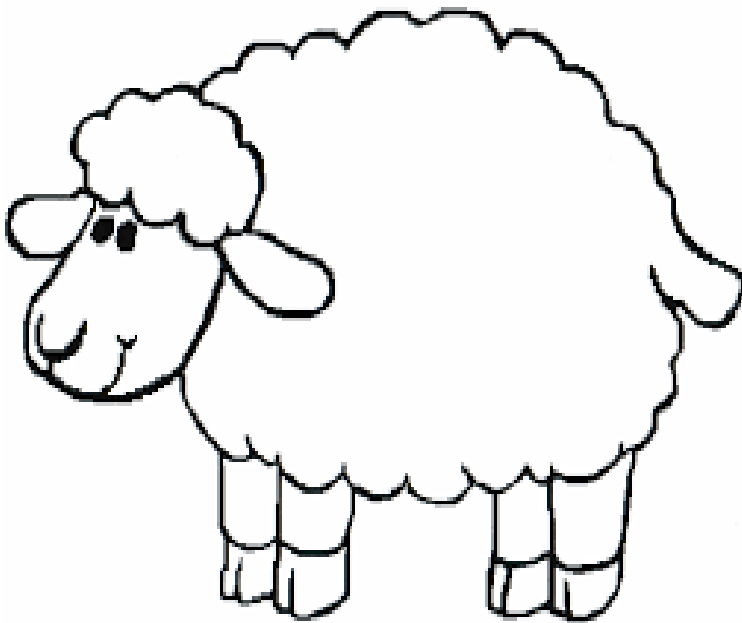
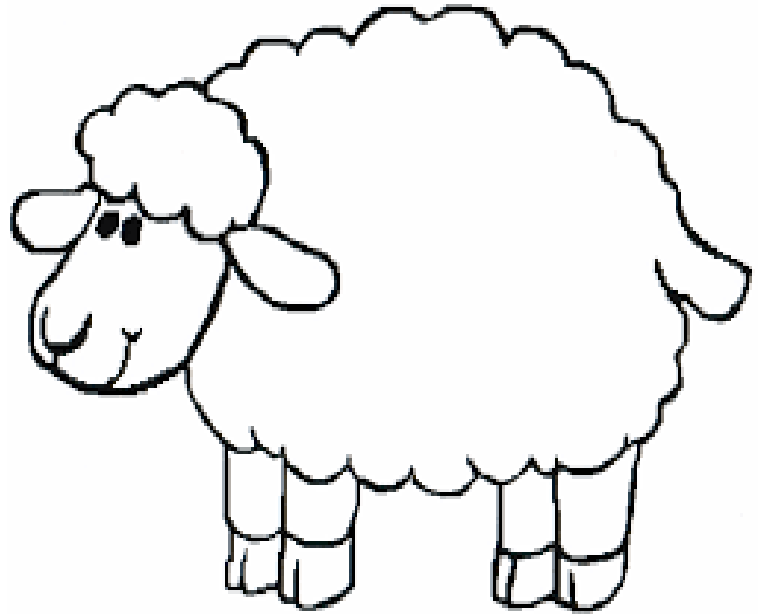
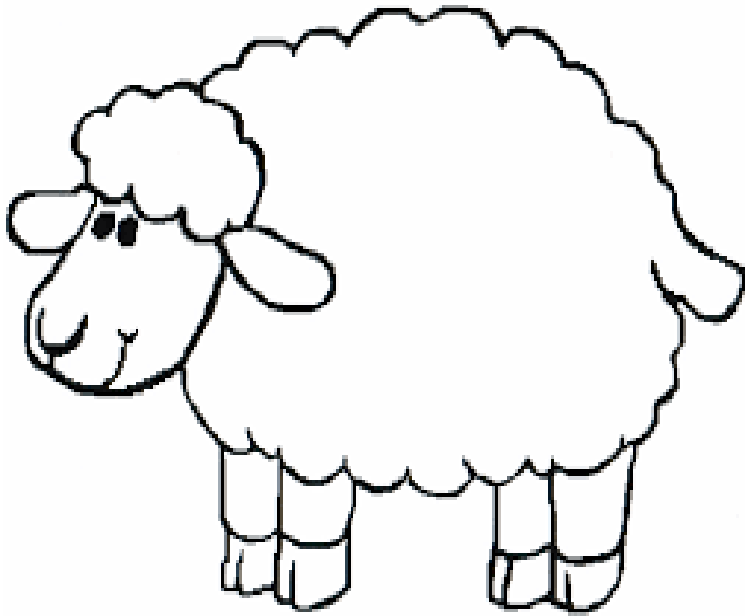
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Instructions:

Copy the lamb onto poster paper, cut out, and color. Glue cotton onto the lamb. Glue onto a popsicle stick or strips of cardboard. Dance to the song: The Lost Sheep, Two by Two, (Ctrl Click) <https://youtu.be/iTEhrNel6Rg> (3-7 years)



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