

Jesus Teaches with Parables

(Matt. 13:10-17,24-43; 25:1-13;
Mark 4; Luke 8; 15)

Section 9 - Lesson 8
Sunday Morning
4-5 year olds

The Lost Sheep

Luke 15: 1-7

PRE-TIME: Color sheet of The Lost Sheep

ATTENDANCE: (Have one student at a time mark their chart while the others complete the pre-time activity.)

PRAYER: (Lead the class in prayer or have a child say the prayer.)

DEFINITION: Parable - a story that Jesus told to tell a story with a special meaning.

BIBLE STORY: Use text provided entitled "The Lost Sheep" and flannel graph. Can also use video-tape entitled "The Beginners Bible-New Testament Read-Along Video" – the story entitled "The Lost Sheep".

QUESTIONS: See questions after lesson.

SONG(s): Apostle song
This Little Light of Mine
Jesus Loves Me

MEMORY WORK: 12 apostles

BIBLE FACTS: Use the "Bible" facts flip-chart

TAKE-HOME HANDOUT(S): Use the Lion-Lamb sheet and make a sheep with a paper plate.

The Lost Sheep

Jesus liked to tell parables (stories that have special meaning to teach people). This lesson is about a shepherd and his flock of sheep.

In the day time a shepherd took ^{Cave} ~~care~~ of his 100 sheep. He showed them where the sweetest grass was to eat and where ^{the coolest} ~~clean~~ water was to drink. All day the shepherd watched over the sheep.

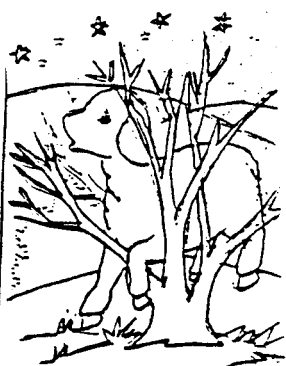
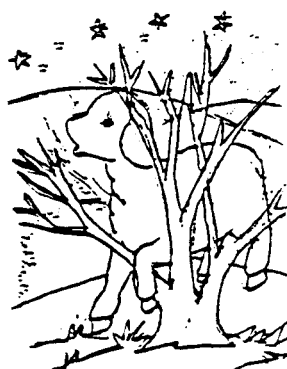
When night came the shepherd took his sheep and put them into a pen to keep them safe. He counted them as they went through the gate. But, one night the shepherd was counting 95, 96, 97, 98, 99...99? He counts the sheep again. 95, 96, 97, 98, 99! Only 99 sheep? But, one sheep is lost.

Do you say, "Oh, well, at least I have 99 sheep?" No, you go to find that lost sheep.

He looked and looked for that one lost sheep. He searched behind rocks and under bushes. He looked over steep cliffs to make sure it hadn't fallen. Finally, he found his lost sheep. Did he scold the naughty sheep? No, he gently took it up in his arms and put the sheep on his



A shepherd had one hundred sheep.
One night, one little sheep got lost.
The shepherd went out to find the lost sheep.



Lion-Lamb

"...Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion,..." I Samuel 17:34

Materials:

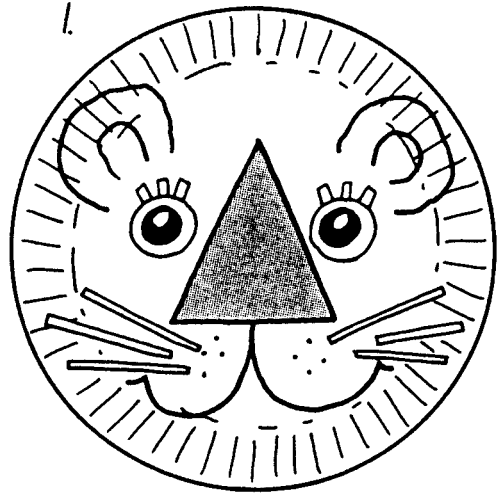
Two 8" paper plates
Yellow yarn
Cotton balls
Glue
Scissors
Crayons

Directions:

To make the lion:

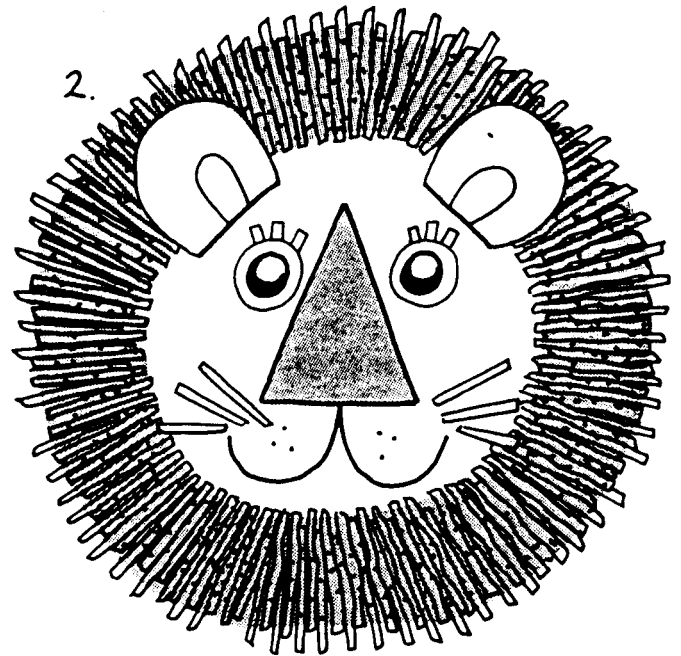
1. Draw a face on a paper plate as shown. Draw a triangle in the middle of the plate. Add eyes and mouth. Make the ears as indicated. Add eyelashes, whiskers, and other details.
2. Cut short lengths of yellow yarn (about 2" lengths) and glue around the rim of the plate for its mane.

Lion

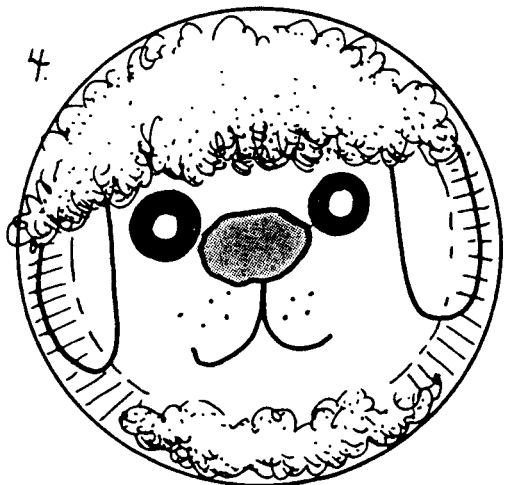
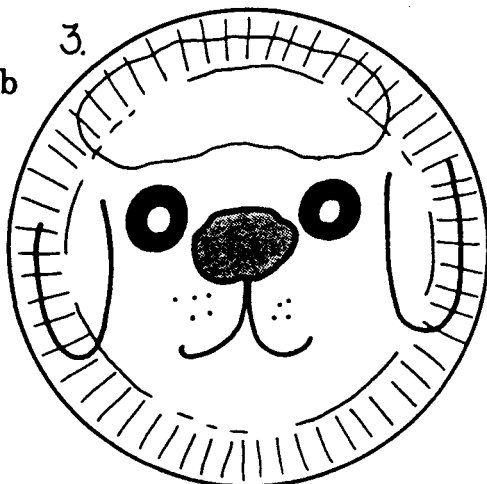


To make the lamb:

3. Draw a lamb's face as shown, making round nose and eyes; ears are long and fluffy.
4. Fluff up cotton balls and glue on the forehead of the lamb.



Lamb



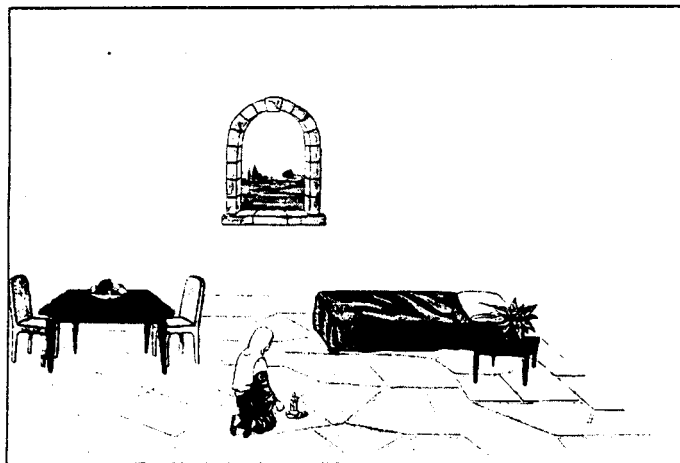
A Lost Coin and A Lost Sheep

MEMORY VERSE: "There is joy...over one sinner that repenteth." Luke 15:10

SCRIPTURES: Luke 15:1-10

AIM: Jesus came to give love to everyone.

THE BIBLE IN LIVING SOUND: Volume 6, Tape 51, Story 305



S4
54
101
130
175
176
185
187
197A
197B
227
229
231
232
234
241A
250
270



Find sheep 130 under bush.

The Pharisees and strict Jewish leaders were some of the people who listened to Jesus' teachings. These men thought they were very good, and felt they never did anything wrong. They believed that the people who broke the law had no right to associate with respectable people like themselves.

"This Man welcomes sinners and eats with them!" they exclaimed in disgust.

Jesus knew what the Pharisees were saying. To help them to know that God loves everyone, including sinners. He told them two parables, or stories. One was about a lost coin and one was about a lost sheep.

"Suppose a woman has ten silver coins which are very important to her. Suddenly she discovers to her distress that she has lost one of them. What does she do? She begins a thorough search. She lights a lamp and checks all the dark corners of her house. She gets a broom and carefully sweeps the floor. At last she sees her coin shining in the light of the lamp. She calls her friends and neighbors together. 'Let's celebrate,' she says. 'I have found my lost coin.'"

Jesus told the people that is how God feels about a sinner who comes back to Him. The angels join in the happiness and all heaven is filled with joy.

The other story was about a shepherd that had one hundred sheep. He loved each one and knew them all by name.

"In the daytime the shepherd took his sheep where they could find good grass to eat and clean water to drink. All day the shepherd watched over the sheep.

"When night came, the shepherd took his sheep home. He always made sure that all the sheep were safe inside the pen. He counted them as they went through the

gate. When the shepherd counted all one hundred sheep, he would go to bed.

"One night when the shepherd was counting his sheep, only ninety-nine sheep walked through the gate. One was missing!

"He hurried out in the dark night to look for his lost sheep. He didn't say 'Oh! I will wait until it gets light to look for the sheep.' He knew that wolves might harm the sheep.

"The shepherd looked everywhere. He searched behind rocks and under bushes. He looked over steep cliffs to make sure it hadn't fallen. He called the sheep by name. He listened, but all was quiet. The shepherd knew that the lost sheep had not obeyed him. Still he kept looking and calling for it. Although the sheep had wandered from the fold, the shepherd still loved it.

"Finally the shepherd heard a faint, weak bleat. Baa, baa. He knew it was his lost sheep! Soon the shepherd had his sheep in his arms. Did he scold the naughty sheep? No. He gently carried it on his shoulder all the way home.

"The shepherd was happy that the sheep had been found. Just like a lost sheep is happy when he is found, a sinner is happy when he is found by the Good Shepherd.

"When the shepherd reached home, he called his friends and neighbors together. He said 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost.'"

When Jesus had finished telling the story of the good shepherd to the Pharisees, He said, "Listen! there is more happiness in heaven over one lost person brought back to God than over ninety-nine good people that have not gone astray."

Jesus was telling the Pharisees that He was like the Good Shepherd, and the sinners were the lost sheep. He

had come to find and help them. God loved the world so much that He gave Jesus to come and save them.

Jesus Teaches with Parables

(Matt. 13:10-17, 24-43; 25:1-13;
Mark 4; Luke 8; 15)

Section 9 - Lesson 8
Wednesday Evening
4 - 5 year olds

A Story About Seeds

Matt. 13: 24-30, 36-43

PRE-TIME: Booklet – The Lost Sheep

ATTENDANCE: (Have one student at a time mark their chart while the others complete the pre-time activity.)

PRAYER: (Lead the class in prayer or have a child say the prayer.)

DEFINITION: Parable – a story that Jesus told to tell a story with a special meaning.

BIBLE STORY: Use text provided entitled “A Story About Seeds” with flannel graph.

Also, can use video-tape entitled “The Beginners Bible-New Testament Read-Along Video” – the story “The Farmer’s Seeds.”

QUESTIONS: See questions sheet.

SONG: Apostle song

MEMORY WORK: 12 apostles

BIBLE FACTS: Use the “Bible” facts flip-chart

TAKE-HOME HANDOUT(s): Two-sided color sheet

(Matt. 13:3-8, 18-23/Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43)

This parable is about a farmer who planted some seeds in his field. Do you remember what a parable is? A short story that Jesus told to tell another story that has a special meaning.

A farmer went out into his field to plant some wheat seeds into the ground. He scattered the seeds with his hands. He tried to throw all the seeds into his field, but some fell along a hard path by the side of the field. Birds came and ate up the seeds.

The farmer continued to scatter more seeds into his field. This time some of the seeds fell where the soil was thin and rocky. The wheat seeds started to grow, but there wasn't enough soil, so the plants couldn't grow strong roots. When the sun came out, it burned the little plants and they withered and died.

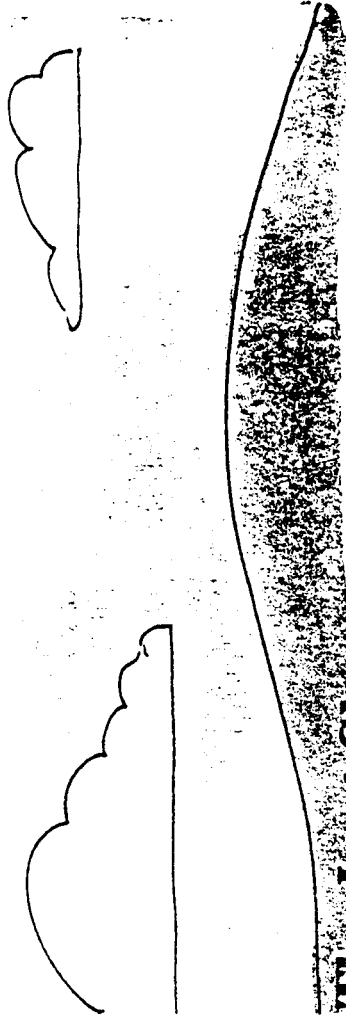
The farmer scattered more seeds, this time in good, rich ground and the seeds grew into strong green plants. But the weeds grew, also. They grew faster than the wheat plants. Before long, the weeds choked the good plants and they died.

Some of the seeds fell on good, rich ground and the seeds grew and grew into healthy wheat plants. For every seed the farmer planted he had a hundred more seeds than when he started.

One of the apostles say, “What does this story mean?” Jesus told them that the seed is the news about God. The birds and weeds and rocks are like some people’s hearts. They hear God’s word, but they have their hearts on other things. They do not understand. They do not love God and follow him. But the good dirt is like the hearts of people who do understand. They love God. God’s love grows in their hearts like a beautiful, healthy plant.

Then Jesus told another story about a farmer. One day a farmer planted good seeds of wheat in his field. While he slept an enemy sowed weeds among the wheat. When the farmer helpers saw the weeds they were puzzled. “Where did these weeds come from?” they asked the farmer. “You only sowed good seed.” “My enemy did it,” said the farmer. The helper asked if he wanted them to pull up the weeds, but the farmer said, “No, you might pull up the wheat with them. Wait till harvest time. When they are fully grown, the harvesters will have no trouble in separating them. Then they can pull up the weeds and burn them and only the wheat will be left.”

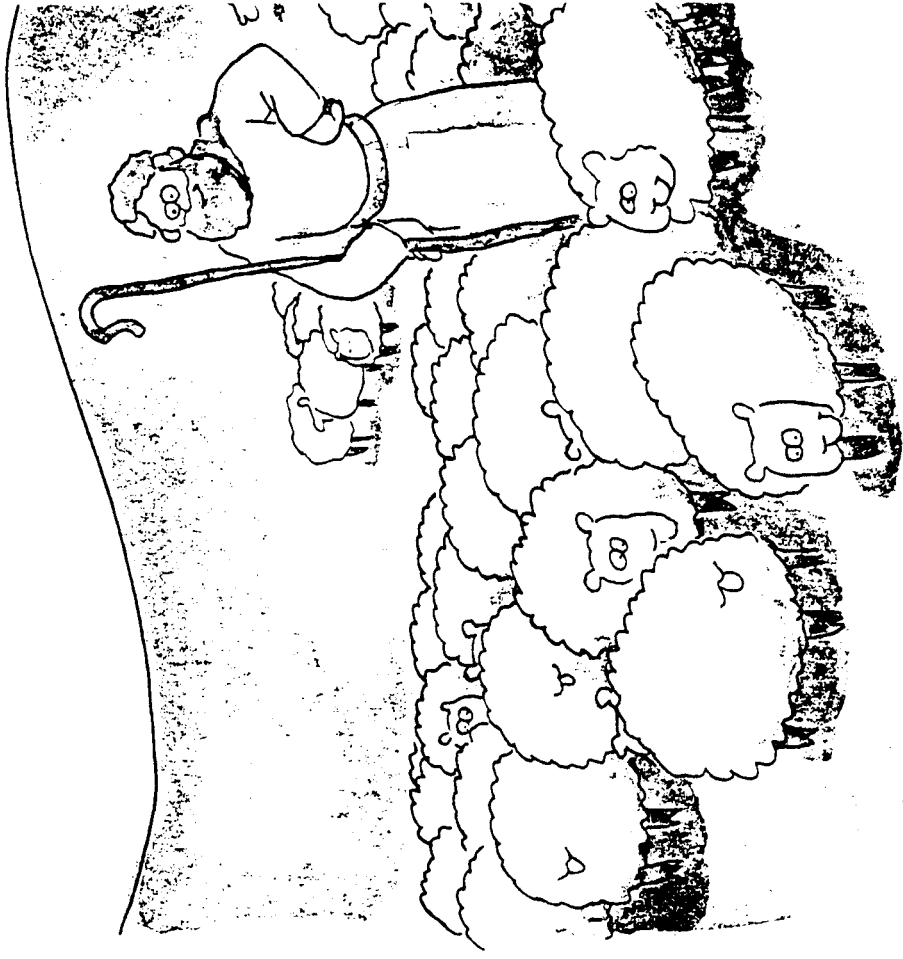
Jesus explained the meaning of this parable. This is what will happen to people at the end of the world. The wheat represents the people who go to heaven. But think how sad it will be for those who never really loved Jesus. These people will never be part of God’s Kingdom.

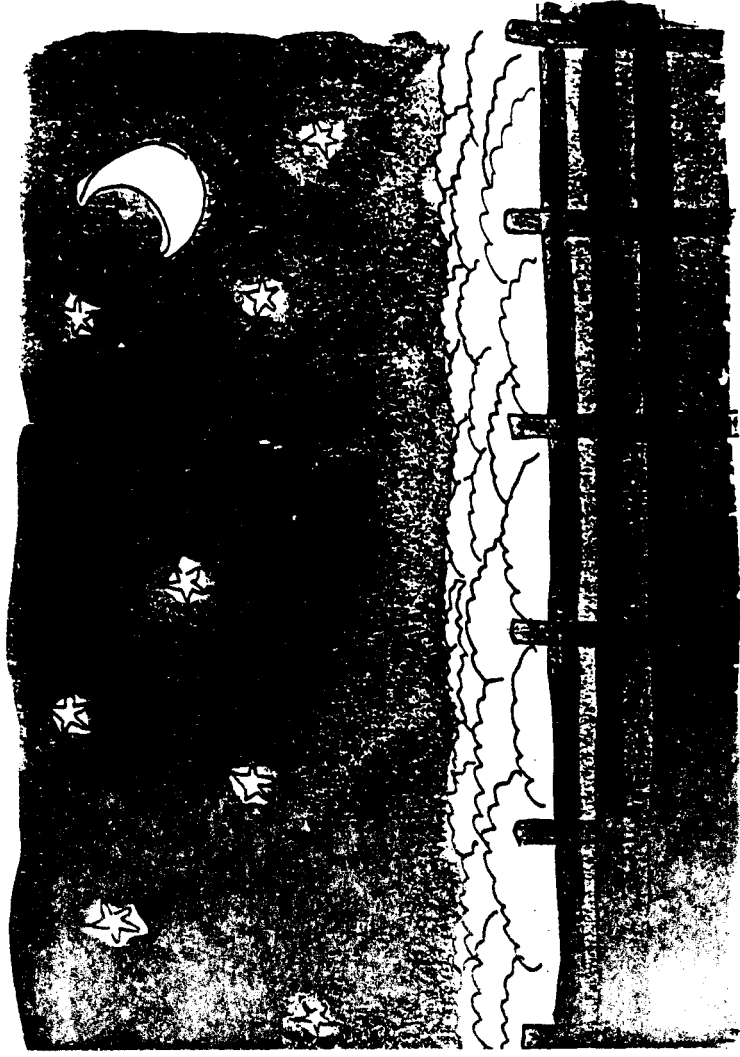


The Lost Sheep

Jesus liked to tell stories that had special meanings. One time he told this story.

"Pretend you are a shepherd," Jesus said.
"You have 100 sheep.
You take good care of them.
You show them where the sweetest grass is.
You show them where the coolest water is.
You know each one of your sheep.
And you love them all.





Every night as you take them to their pen,
you count your sheep.

You want to be sure they are all there,
safe and sound.

When you count '100,'
you know they are all there.

You close the gate and the sheep sleep safely.



But one night, you are counting . . .

95, 96, 97, 98, 99 . . . 99?

Only 99 sheep?

You count again, but there are only 99 sh
The other sheep must be lost!

Do you say, 'Oh well, at least I have 99 sh

No, you go to find that lost sheep.



You look and look and look.
and when at last you find it,
you carry it home on your shoulders.
You are so happy that you call your friends.
'Look,' you say, 'I found my lost sheep!'



Then Jesus told the special meaning
of this story.

"God is like the shepherd," he said.

"God loves his people.

If one of them disobeys him,

he's like the lost sheep.

But when he is sorry and comes back to God
God is happy.

God is like a shepherd who has found
his lost sheep!"